MARVEL
THE UNCANNY
X-MEN
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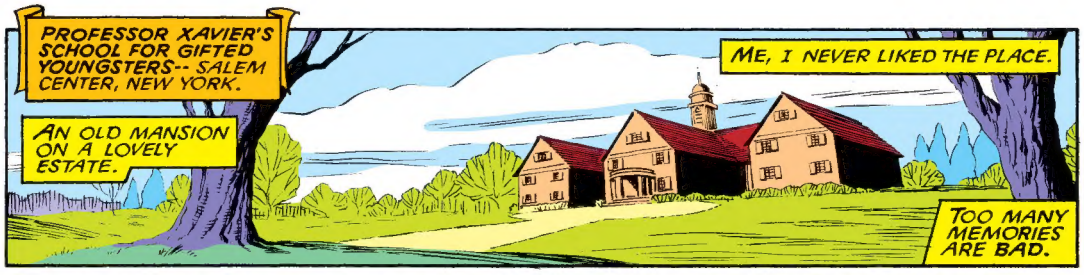
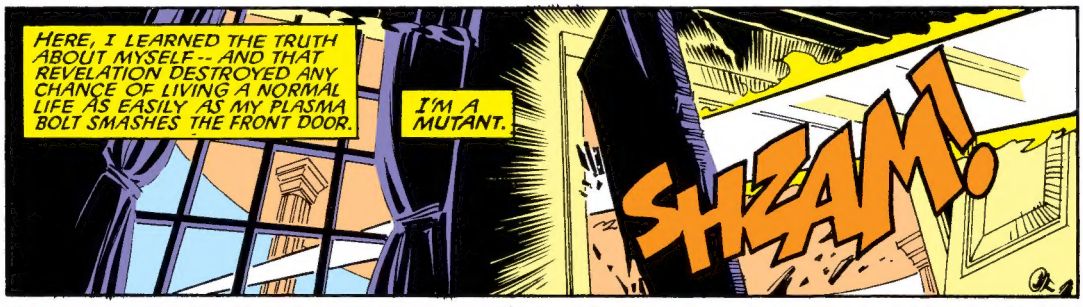
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
WELCOME TO THE X-MEN, HAVOK--
--HOPE YOU SURVIVE!!





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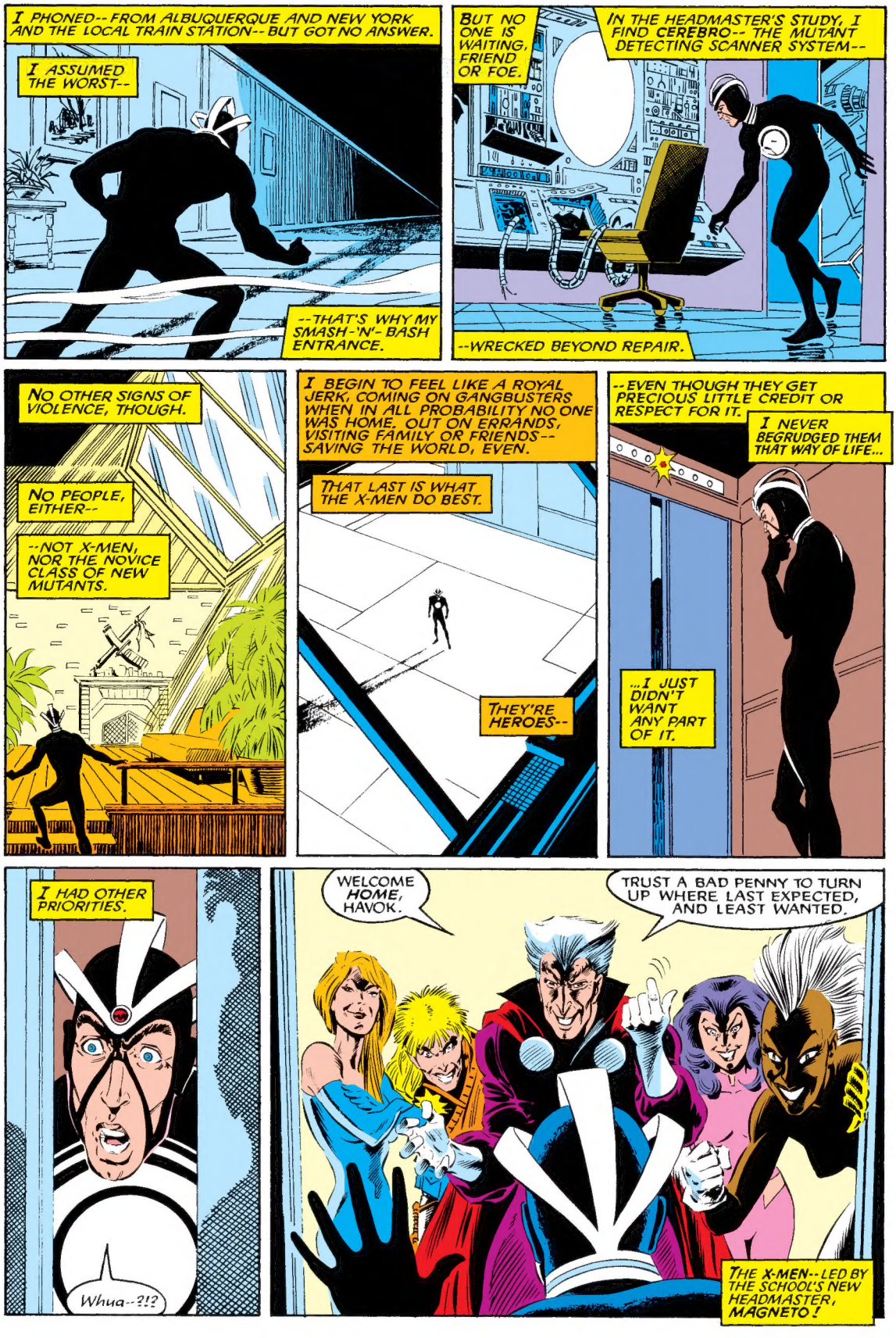
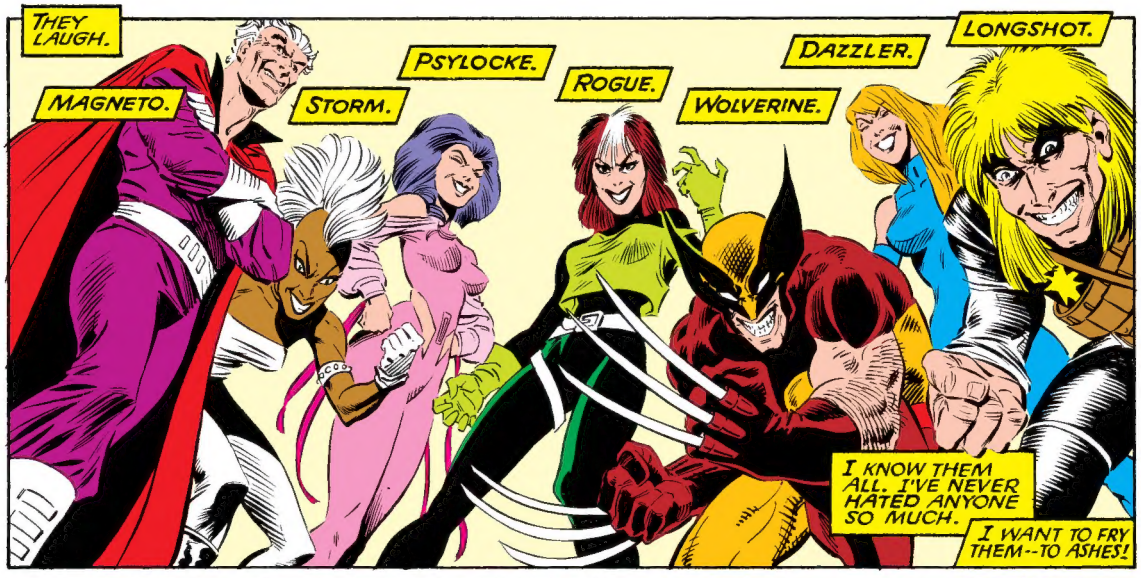
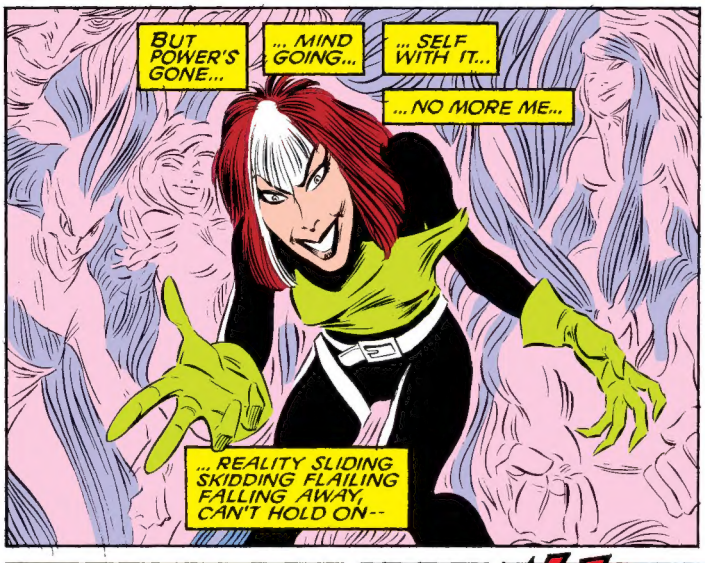
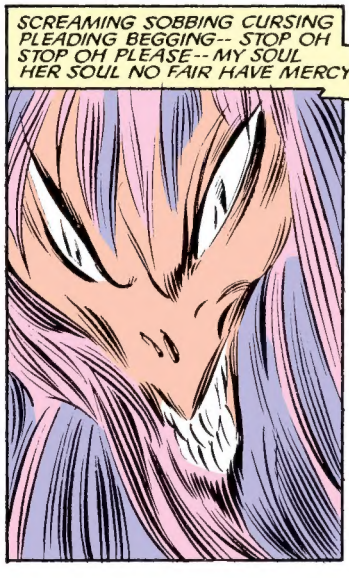

I PHONED-- FROM ALBUQUERQUE AND NEW YORK AND THE LOCAL TRAIN STATION-- BUT GOT NO ANSWER.
I ASSUMED THE WORST--
--THAT'S WHY MY SMASH-'N'- BASH ENTRANCE.
BUT NO ONE IS WAITING, FRIEND OR FOE.
IN THE HEADMASTER'S STUDY, I FIND CEREBRO-- THE MUTANT DETECTING SCANNER SYSTEM--
--WRECKED BEYOND REPAIR.
NO OTHER SIGNS OF VIOLENCE, THOUGH.
NO PEOPLE, EITHER--
--NOT X-MEN, NOR THE NOVICE CLASS OF NEW MUTANTS.
I BEGIN TO FEEL LIKE A ROYAL JERK, COMING ON GANGBUSTERS WHEN IN ALL PROBABILITY NO ONE WAS HOME. OUT ON ERRANDS, VISITING FAMILY OR FRIENDS-- SAVING THE WORLD, EVEN.
THAT LAST IS WHAT THE X-MEN DO BEST.
THEY'RE HEROES--
--EVEN THOUGH THEY GET PRECIOUS LITTLE CREDIT OR RESPECT FOR IT.
I NEVER BEGRUDGED THEM THAT WAY OF LIFE...
...I JUST DIDN'T WANT ANY PART OF IT.
I HAD OTHER PRIORITIES.
Whua--?!?
WELCOME HOME, HAVOK.
TRUST A BAD PENNY TO TURN UP WHERE LAST EXPECTED, AND LEAST WANTED.
THE X-MEN-- LED BY THE SCHOOL'S NEW HEADMASTER, MAGNETO!

HE USED TO BE THE TEAM'S DEADLIEST ENEMY. HE'S SUPPOSED TO HAVE REFORMED. THE X-MEN EVIDENTLY TRUST HIM. I DON'T.
RECOGNITION TAKES ONE SPLIT-SECOND, THOSE THOUGHTS ANOTHER--
--HARDLY ANY TIME AT ALL--
--BUT MORE THAN ENOUGH TO COST ME DEAR!
HEY--?!
WHO--?!!
ROGUE!?!
SHE USED TO BE A CROOK, TOO.
SHE STEALS POWERS AND PSYCHES-- NOW, SHE'S AFTER MINE-- CAUGHT OFF-GUARD, NO TIME NO CHANCE NO STRENGTH TO STOP HER--
--ANGER FLARES AS AWARENESS SHATTERFADES, X-MEN MUST HAVE BEEN SUCKERED, SEDUCED, BY THESE FALSEFRIENDS, HOW EASILY SHE TOOK ME!

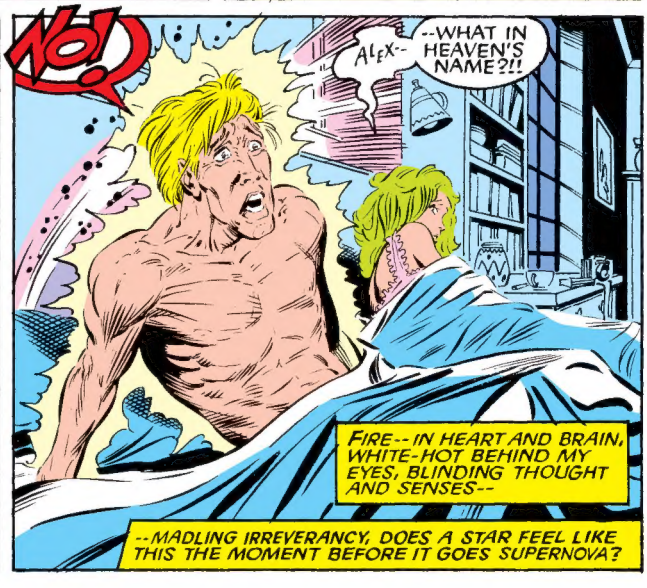

THEY LAUGH.
MAGNETO.
STORM.
PSYLOCKE.
ROGUE.
WOLVERINE.
DAZZLER.
LONGSHOT.
I KNOW THEM ALL. I'VE NEVER HATED ANYONE SO MUCH.
I WANT TO FRY THEM--TO ASHES!

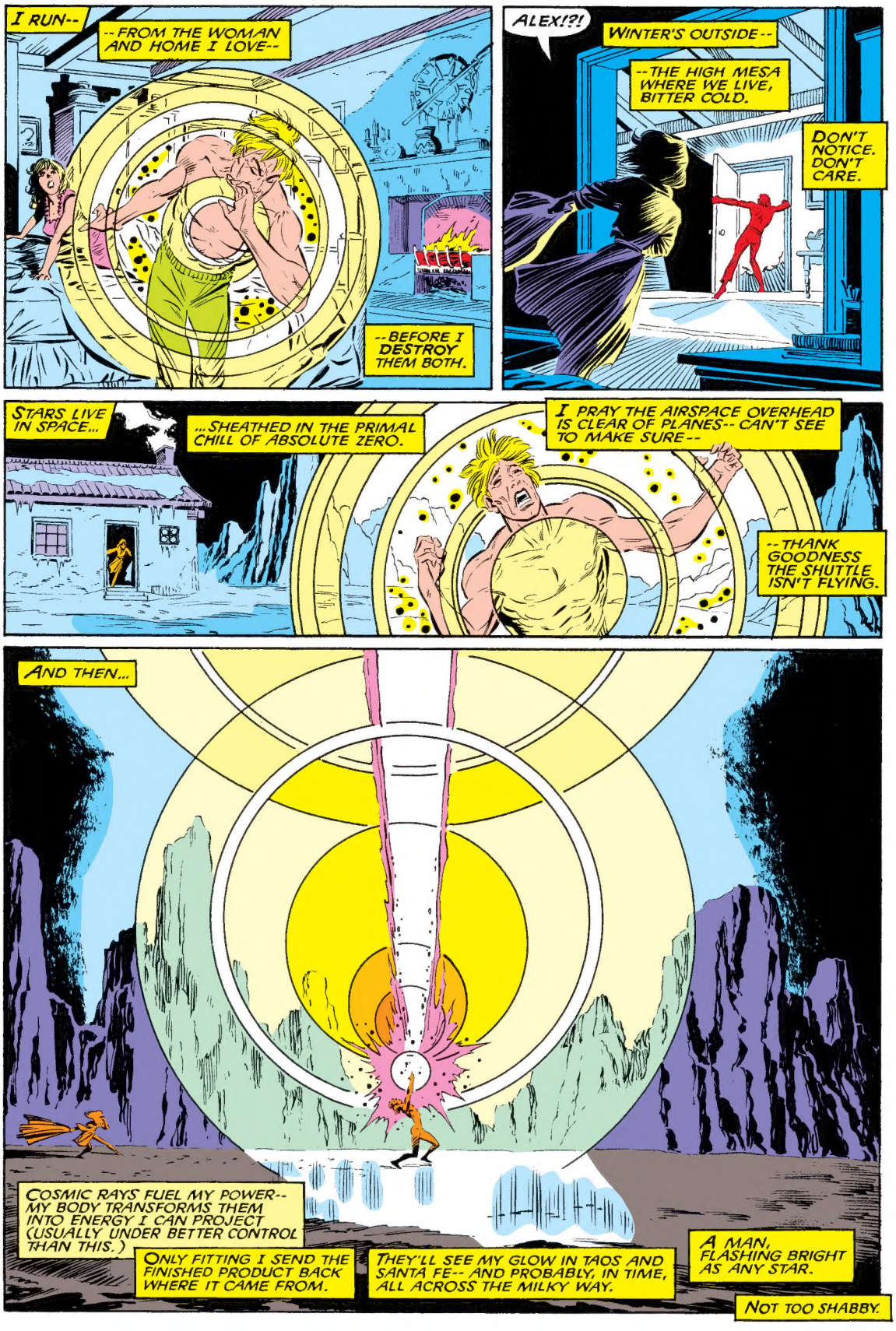

BUT POWER'S GONE...
... MIND GOING...
... SELF WITH IT...
... NO MORE ME...
... REALITY SLIDING SKIDDING FLAILING FALLING AWAY, CAN'T HOLD ON--

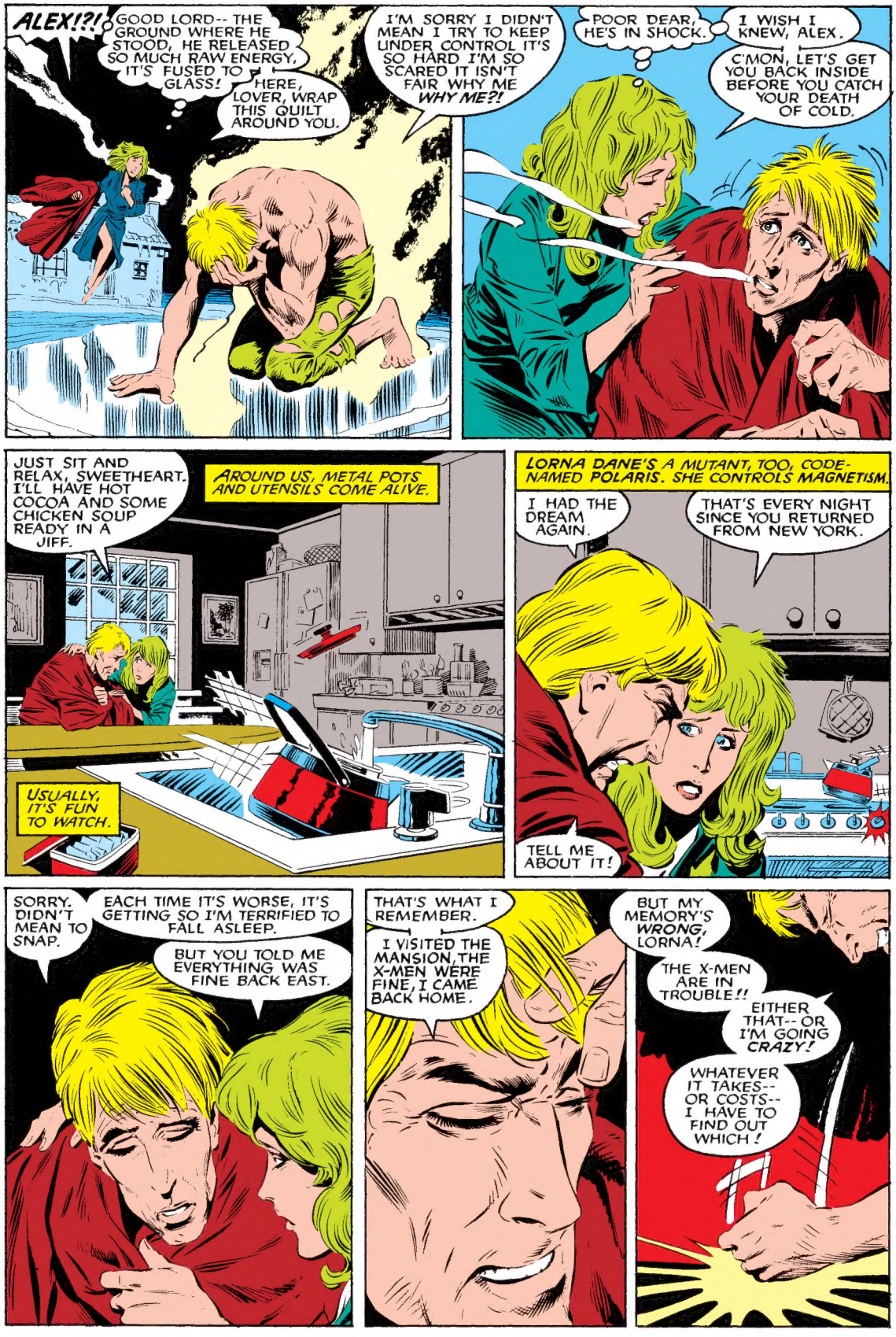
--WHERE'S THE WHOLE OF ME, I CRY.
RIGHT HERE, SHE ANSWERS.
DROWNING

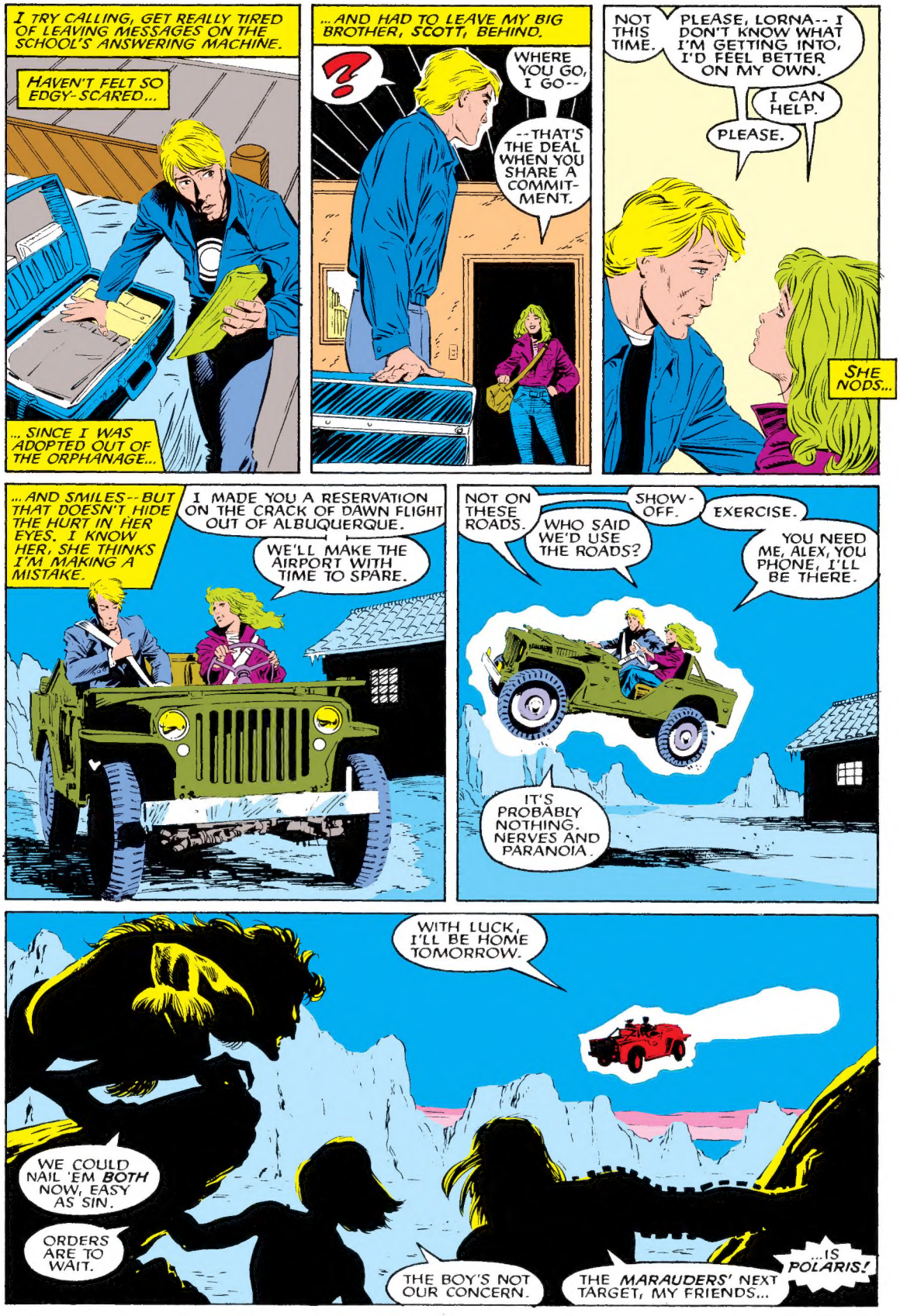

SCREAMING SOBBING CURSING PLEADING BEGGING-- STOP OH STOP OH PLEASE-- MY SOUL HER SOUL NO FAIR HAVE MERCY

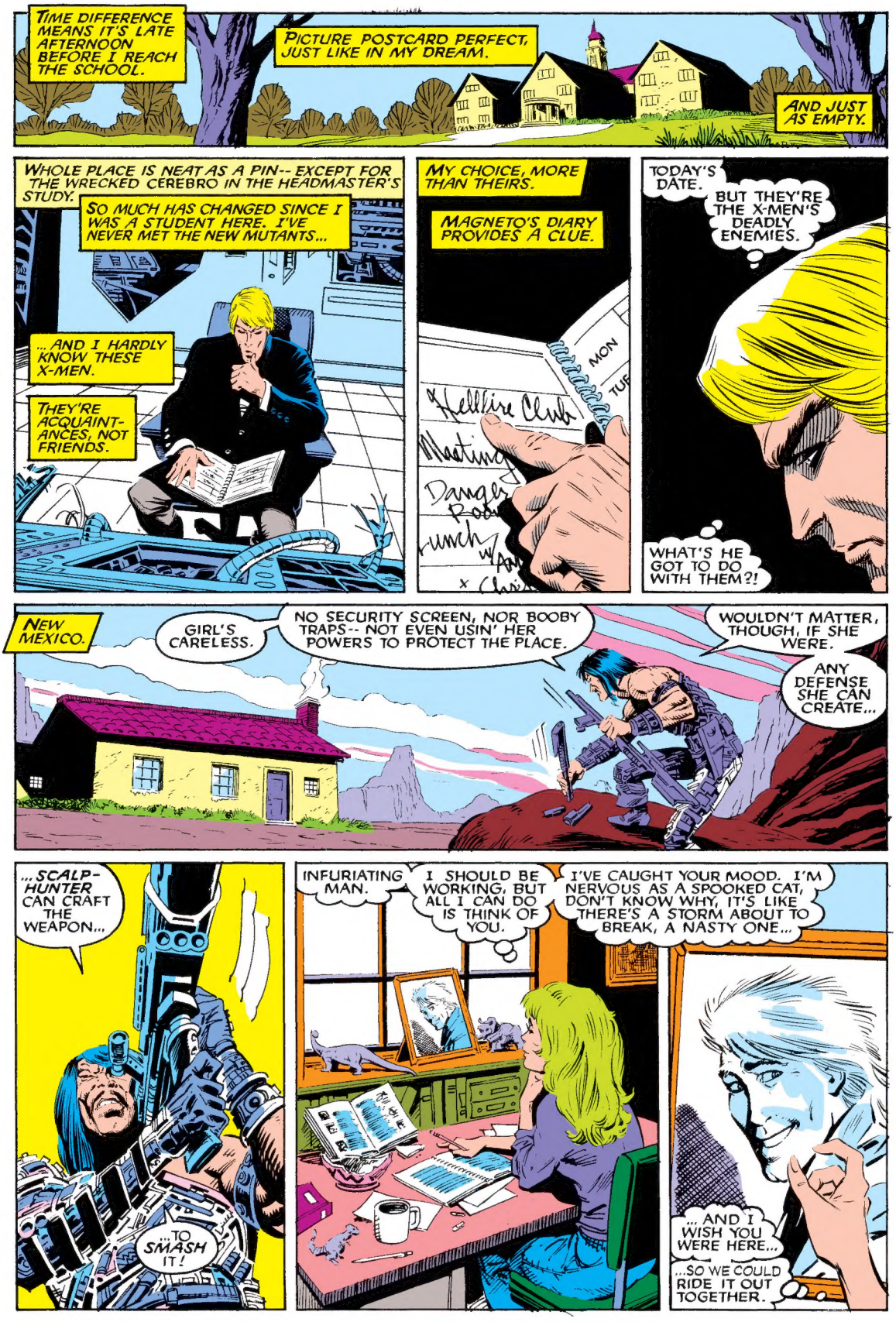
NO MERCY

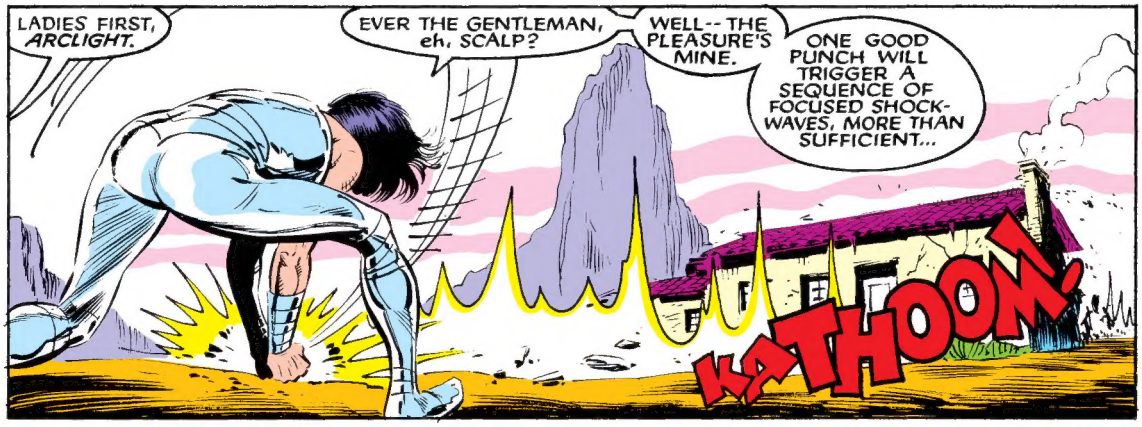

NO!
ALEX--
--WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME?!!
FIRE--IN HEART AND BRAIN, WHITE-HOT BEHIND MY EYES, BLINDING THOUGHT AND SENSES--
--MADLING IRREVERANCY, DOES A STAR FEEL LIKE THIS THE MOMENT BEFORE IT GOES SUPERNOVA?

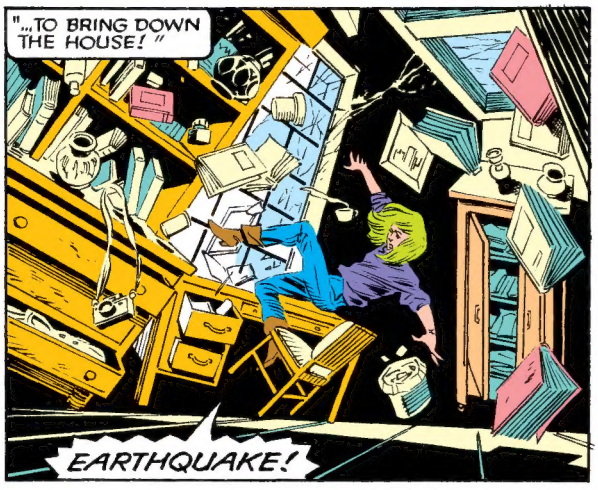

I RUN--
--FROM THE WOMAN AND HOME I LOVE--
--BEFORE I DESTROY THEM BOTH.
ALEX!?!
WINTER'S OUTSIDE--
--THE HIGH MESA WHERE WE LIVE, BITTER COLD.
DON'T NOTICE. DON'T CARE.
STARS LIVE IN SPACE...
...SHEATHED IN THE PRIMAL CHILL OF ABSOLUTE ZERO.
I PRAY THE AIRSPACE OVERHEAD IS CLEAR OF PLANES-- CAN'T SEE TO MAKE SURE--
--THANK GOODNESS THE SHUTTLE ISN'T FLYING.
AND THEN...
COSMIC RAYS FUEL MY POWER-- MY BODY TRANSFORMS THEM INTO ENERGY I CAN PROJECT (USUALLY UNDER BETTER CONTROL THAN THIS.)
ONLY FITTING I SEND THE FINISHED PRODUCT BACK WHERE IT CAME FROM.
THEY'LL SEE MY GLOW IN TAOS AND SANTA FE-- AND PROBABLY, IN TIME, ALL ACROSS THE MILKY WAY.
A MAN, FLASHING BRIGHT AS ANY STAR.
NOT TOO SHABBY.

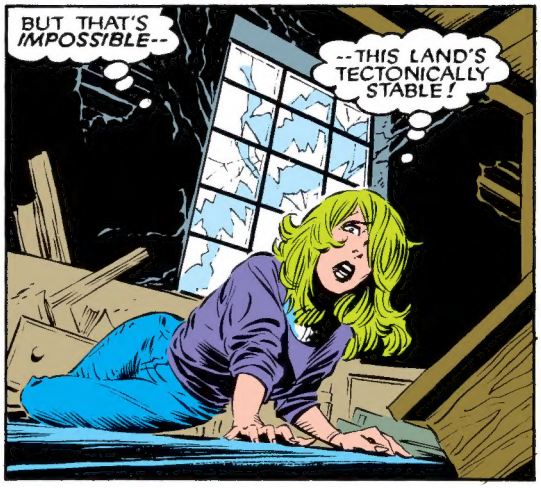

ALEX!?!
GOOD LORD-- THE GROUND WHERE HE STOOD, HE RELEASED SO MUCH RAW ENERGY, IT'S FUSED TO GLASS!
HERE, LOVER, WRAP THIS QUILT AROUND YOU.
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T MEAN I TRY TO KEEP UNDER CONTROL IT'S SO HARD I'M SO SCARED IT ISN'T FAIR WHY ME WHY ME?!
POOR DEAR, HE'S IN SHOCK.
I WISH I KNEW, ALEX.
C'MON, LET'S GET YOU BACK INSIDE BEFORE YOU CATCH YOUR DEATH OF COLD.
JUST SIT AND RELAX, SWEETHEART. I'LL HAVE HOT COCOA AND SOME CHICKEN SOUP READY IN A JIFF.
AROUND US, METAL POTS AND UTENSILS COME ALIVE.
USUALLY, IT'S FUN TO WATCH.
LORNA DANE'S A MUTANT, TOO, CODE-NAMED POLARIS. SHE CONTROLS MAGNETISM.
I HAD THE DREAM AGAIN.
THAT'S EVERY NIGHT SINCE YOU RETURNED FROM NEW YORK.
TELL ME ABOUT IT!
SORRY. DIDN'T MEAN TO SNAP.
EACH TIME IT'S WORSE, IT'S GETTING SO I'M TERRIFIED TO FALL ASLEEP.
BUT YOU TOLD ME EVERYTHING WAS FINE BACK EAST.
THAT'S WHAT I REMEMBER.
I VISITED THE MANSION, THE X-MEN WERE FINE, I CAME BACK HOME.
BUT MY MEMORY'S WRONG, LORNA!
THE X-MEN ARE IN TROUBLE!!
EITHER THAT-- OR I'M GOING CRAZY!
WHATEVER IT TAKES-- OR COSTS-- I HAVE TO FIND OUT WHICH!

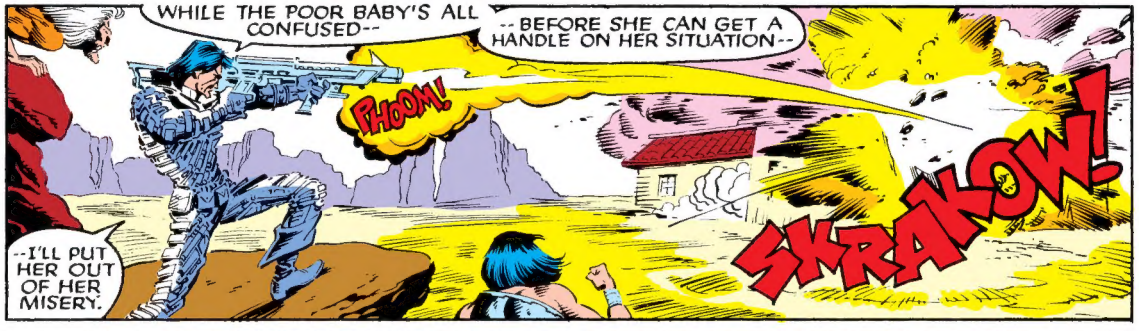

I TRY CALLING, GET REALLY TIRED OF LEAVING MESSAGES ON THE SCHOOL'S ANSWERING MACHINE.
HAVEN'T FELT SO EDGY-SCARED...
... SINCE I WAS ADOPTED OUT OF THE ORPHANAGE...
... AND HAD TO LEAVE MY BIG BROTHER, SCOTT, BEHIND.
?
WHERE YOU GO, I GO--
--THAT'S THE DEAL WHEN YOU SHARE A COMMITMENT.
NOT THIS TIME.
PLEASE, LORNA-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M GETTING INTO, I'D FEEL BETTER ON MY OWN.
I CAN HELP.
PLEASE.
SHE NODS...
... AND SMILES-- BUT THAT DOESN'T HIDE THE HURT IN HER EYES. I KNOW HER, SHE THINKS I'M MAKING A MISTAKE.
I MADE YOU A RESERVATION ON THE CRACK OF DAWN FLIGHT OUT OF ALBUQUERQUE.
WE'LL MAKE THE AIRPORT WITH TIME TO SPARE.
NOT ON THESE ROADS.
SHOW-OFF.
WHO SAID WE'D USE THE ROADS?
EXERCISE.
YOU NEED ME, ALEX, YOU PHONE, I'LL BE THERE.
IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING. NERVES AND PARANOIA.
WITH LUCK, I'LL BE HOME TOMORROW.
WE COULD NAIL 'EM BOTH NOW, EASY AS SIN.
ORDERS ARE TO WAIT.
THE BOY'S NOT OUR CONCERN.
THE MARAUDERS' NEXT TARGET, MY FRIENDS...
...IS POLARIS!

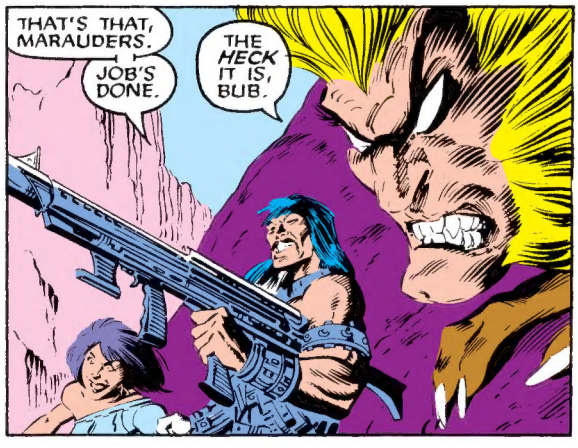

TIME DIFFERENCE MEANS IT'S LATE AFTERNOON BEFORE I REACH THE SCHOOL.
PICTURE POSTCARD PERFECT, JUST LIKE IN MY DREAM.
AND JUST AS EMPTY.
WHOLE PLACE IS NEAT AS A PIN-- EXCEPT FOR THE WRECKED CEREBRO IN THE HEADMASTER'S STUDY.
SO MUCH HAS CHANGED SINCE I WAS A STUDENT HERE. I'VE NEVER MET THE NEW MUTANTS...
...AND I HARDLY KNOW THESE X-MEN.
THEY'RE ACQUAINTANCES, NOT FRIENDS.
MY CHOICE, MORE THAN THEIRS.
MAGNETO'S DIARY PROVIDES A CLUE.
MON
TUE
Hellfire Club
Meeting
Danger
Lunch
TODAY'S DATE.
BUT THEY'RE THE X-MEN'S DEADLY ENEMIES.
WHAT'S HE GOT TO DO WITH THEM?!
NEW MEXICO.
GIRL'S CARELESS.
NO SECURITY SCREEN, NOR BOOBY TRAPS-- NOT EVEN USIN' HER POWERS TO PROTECT THE PLACE.
WOULDN'T MATTER, THOUGH, IF SHE WERE.
ANY DEFENSE SHE CAN CREATE...
...SCALP-HUNTER CAN CRAFT THE WEAPON...
...TO SMASH IT!
INFURIATING MAN.
I SHOULD BE WORKING, BUT ALL I CAN DO IS THINK OF YOU.
I'VE CAUGHT YOUR MOOD. I'M NERVOUS AS A SPOOKED CAT, DON'T KNOW WHY, IT'S LIKE THERE'S A STORM ABOUT TO BREAK, A NASTY ONE...
... AND I WISH YOU WERE HERE...
...SO WE COULD RIDE IT OUT TOGETHER.

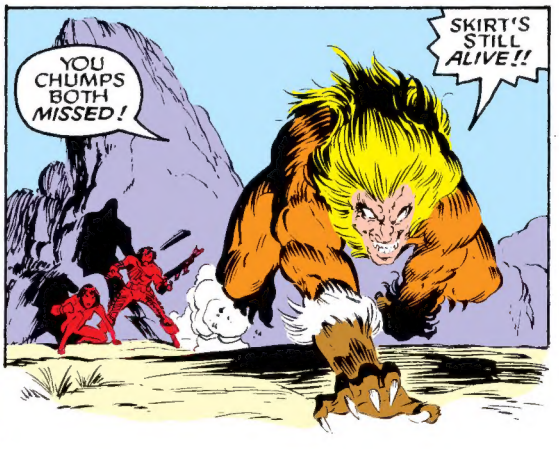

LADIES FIRST, ARCLIGHT.
EVER THE GENTLEMAN, eh, SCALP?
WELL-- THE PLEASURE'S MINE.
ONE GOOD PUNCH WILL TRIGGER A SEQUENCE OF FOCUSED SHOCK-WAVES, MORE THAN SUFFICIENT...
KATHOOM!

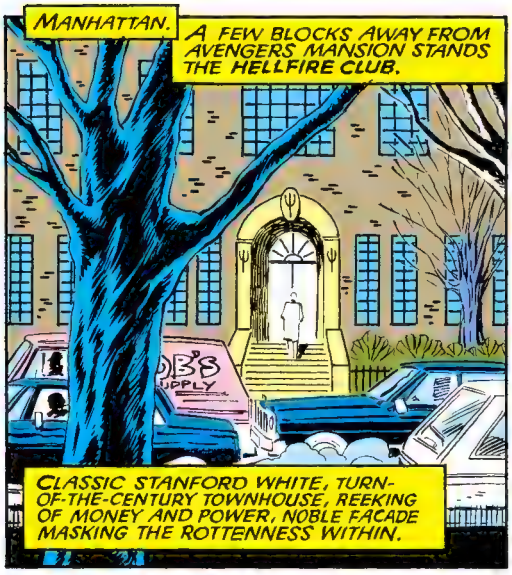

"...TO BRING DOWN THE HOUSE!"
EARTHQUAKE!

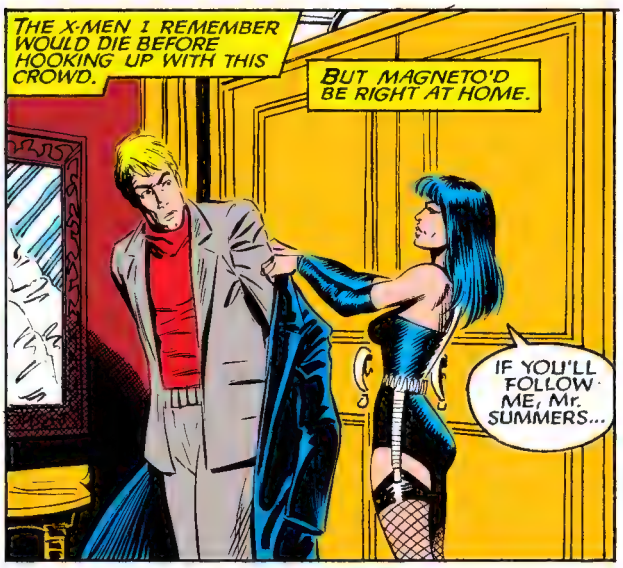

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE--
--THIS LAND'S TECTONICALLY STABLE!

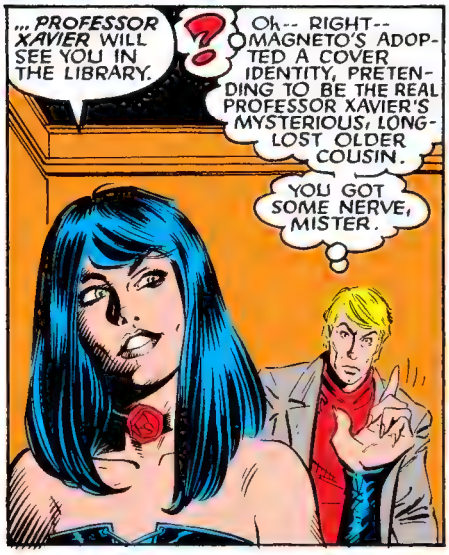

WHILE THE POOR BABY'S ALL CONFUSED--
--BEFORE SHE CAN GET A HANDLE ON HER SITUATION--
FHOOM!
SKRAKOW!
--I'll PUT HER OUT OF HER MISERY.

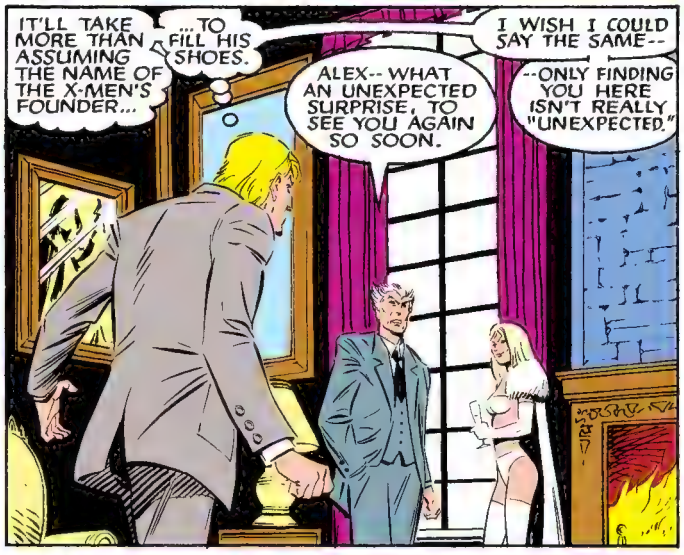

THAT'S THAT, MARAUDERS.
JOB'S DONE.
THE HECK IT IS, BUB.

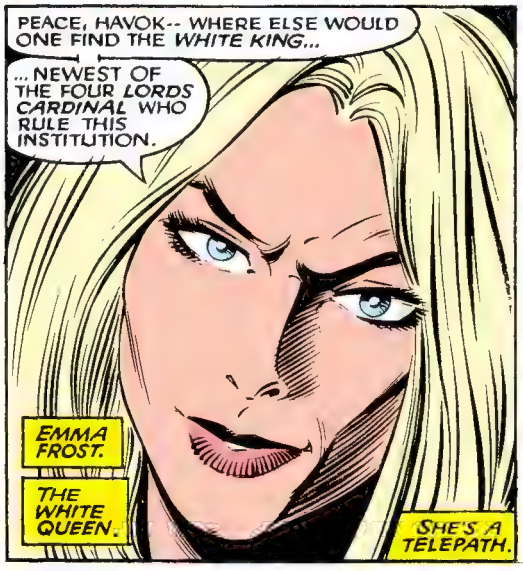

YOU CHUMPS BOTH MISSED!
SKIRT'S STILL ALIVE!!

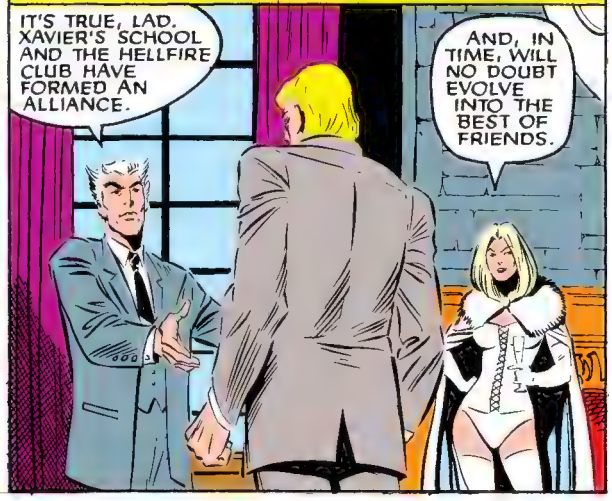

MANHATTAN.
A FEW BLOCKS AWAY FROM AVENGERS MANSION STANDS THE HELLFIRE CLUB.
CLASSIC STANFORD WHITE, TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY TOWNHOUSE, REEKING OF MONEY AND POWER, NOBLE FACADE MASKING THE ROTTENNESS WITHIN.

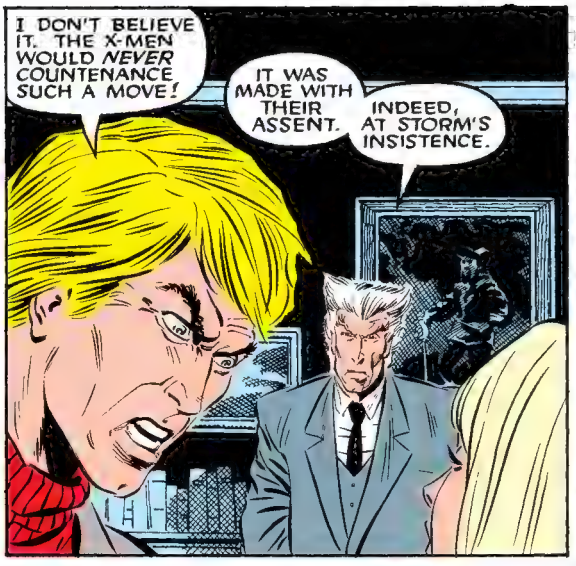

THE X-MEN I REMEMBER WOULD DIE BEFORE HOOKING UP WITH THIS CROWD.
BUT MAGNETO'D BE RIGHT AT HOME.
IF YOU'LL FOLLOW ME, Mr. SUMMERS...

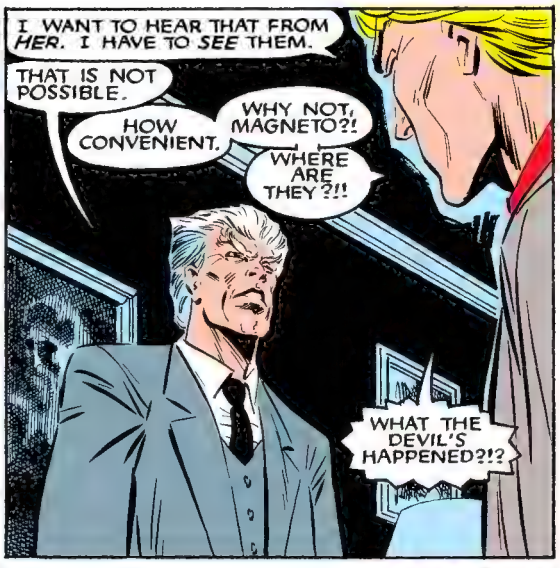

... PROFESSOR XAVIER WILL SEE YOU IN THE LIBRARY.
?
Oh-- RIGHT-- MAGNETO'S ADOPTED A COVER IDENTITY, PRETENDING TO BE THE REAL PROFESSOR XAVIER'S MYSTERIOUS, LONG-LOST OLDER COUSIN.
YOU GOT SOME NERVE, MISTER.


IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN ASSUMING THE NAME OF THE X-MEN'S FOUNDER...
... TO FILL HIS SHOES.
ALEX-- WHAT AN UNEXPECTED SURPRISE, TO SEE YOU AGAIN SO SOON.
I WISH I COULD SAY THE SAME--
--ONLY FINDING YOU HERE ISN'T REALLY "UNEXPECTED."


PEACE, HAVOK-- WHERE ELSE WOULD ONE FIND THE WHITE KING...
... NEWEST OF THE FOUR LORDS CARDINAL WHO RULE THIS INSTITUTION.
EMMA FROST.
THE WHITE QUEEN.
SHE'S A TELEPATH.

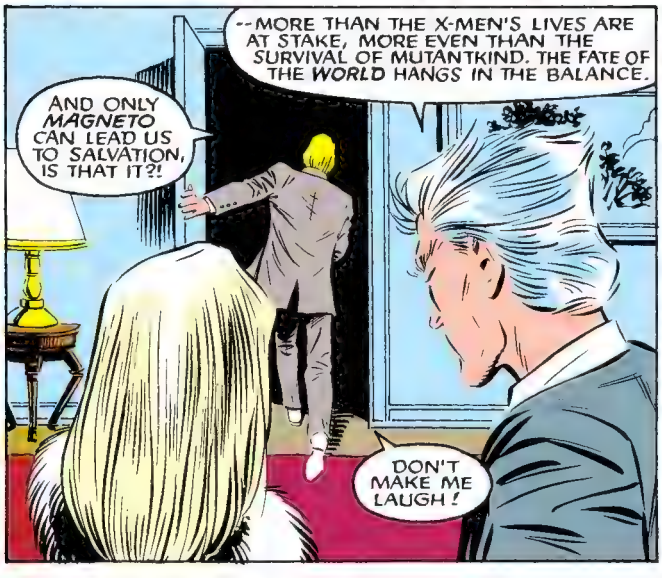

I HAVE TO GUARD MY THOUGHTS AROUND HER-- BUT I CAN'T STOP THE LOOK OF SHOCKED, SICK DISBELIEF THAT FLASHES ACROSS MY FACE AT HER ANNOUNCEMENT.
IT'S TRUE, LAD. XAVIER'S SCHOOL AND THE HELLFIRE CLUB HAVE FORMED AN ALLIANCE.
AND, IN TIME, WILL NO DOUBT EVOLVE INTO THE BEST OF FRIENDS.


I DON'T BELIEVE IT. THE X-MEN WOULD *NEVER* COUNTENANCE SUCH A MOVE!
IT WAS MADE WITH THEIR ASSENT.
INDEED, AT STORM'S INSISTENCE.

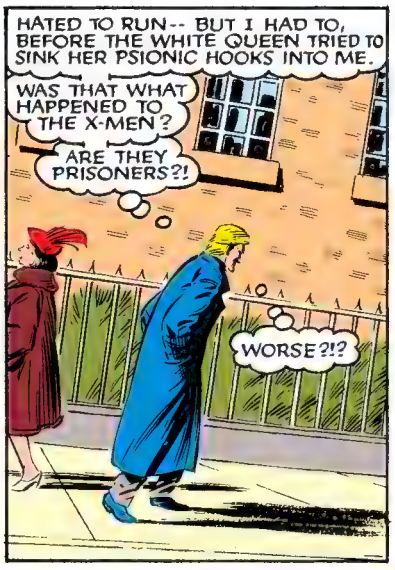

I WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM *HER*. I HAVE TO *SEE* THEM.
THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE.
HOW CONVENIENT.
WHY NOT, MAGNETO?!
WHERE ARE THEY?!!
WHAT THE DEVIL'S HAPPENED?!?

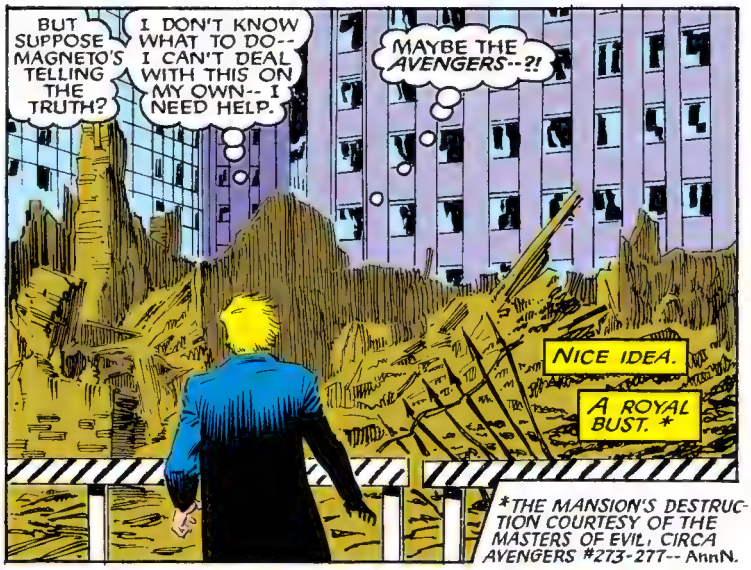
IF YOU HAVE A MESSAGE, GIVE IT TO ME, I WILL PASS IT ON.
THE TEAM WILL CONTACT YOU, WHEN THEY ARE ABLE.

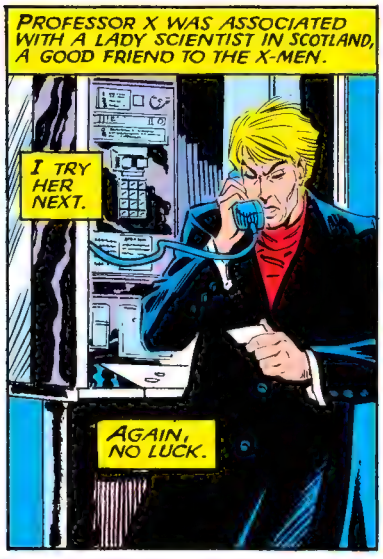
I WON'T HOLD MY BREATH WAITING.
PROFESSOR XAVIER LEFT HIS SCHOOL-- HIS STUDENTS-- IN *YOUR* HANDS, MAGNETO! IS THIS HOW YOU REPAY HIS *TRUST*?!
THESE ARE THE MOST DANGEROUS OF TIMES, HAVOK--

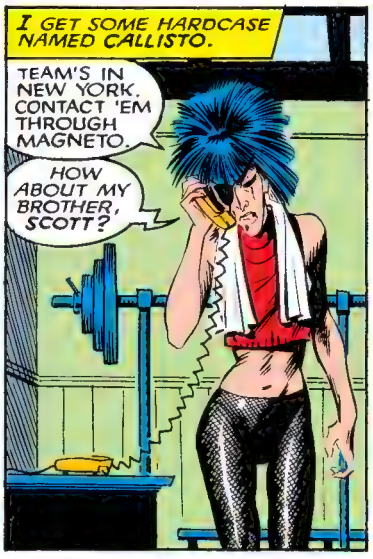

--MORE THAN THE X-MEN'S LIVES ARE AT STAKE, MORE EVEN THAN THE SURVIVAL OF MUTANTKIND. THE FATE OF THE *WORLD* HANGS IN THE BALANCE.
AND ONLY *MAGNETO* CAN LEAD US TO SALVATION, IS THAT IT?!
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!

BLAST!
FOR ALL MY GOOD INTENTIONS-- MY GOOD WORKS--
--ALWAYS I AM HAMSTRUNG BY MY PAST.
EVEN WHEN THE LEOPARD HAS *TRULY* CHANGED HIS SPOTS...
... WHAT LAMB WILL DARE BELIEVE IT?

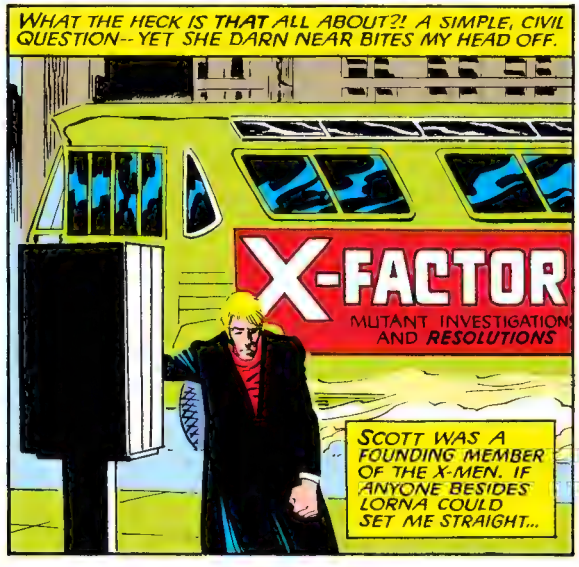

HATED TO RUN-- BUT I HAD TO, BEFORE THE WHITE QUEEN TRIED TO SINK HER PSIONIC HOOKS INTO ME.
WAS THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE X-MEN?
ARE THEY PRISONERS?!
WORSE?!?

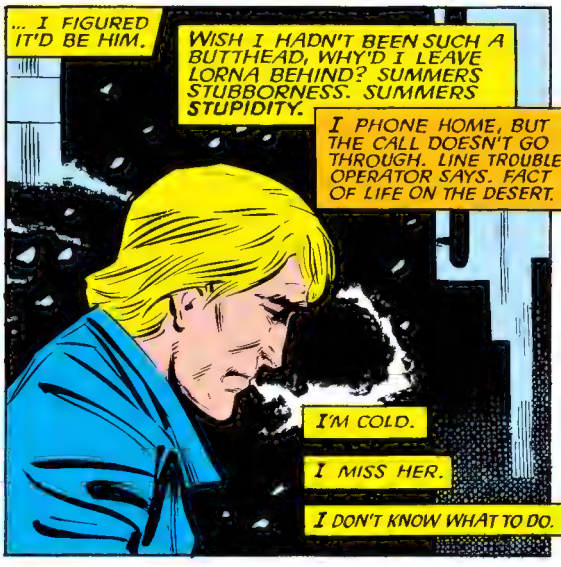

BUT SUPPOSE MAGNETO'S TELLING THE TRUTH?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO-- I CAN'T DEAL WITH THIS ON MY OWN-- I NEED HELP.
MAYBE THE AVENGERS--?!
NICE IDEA.
A ROYAL BUST. *
*THE MANSION'S DESTRUCTION COURTESY OF THE MASTERS OF EVIL, CIRCA AVENGERS #273-277-- AnnN.

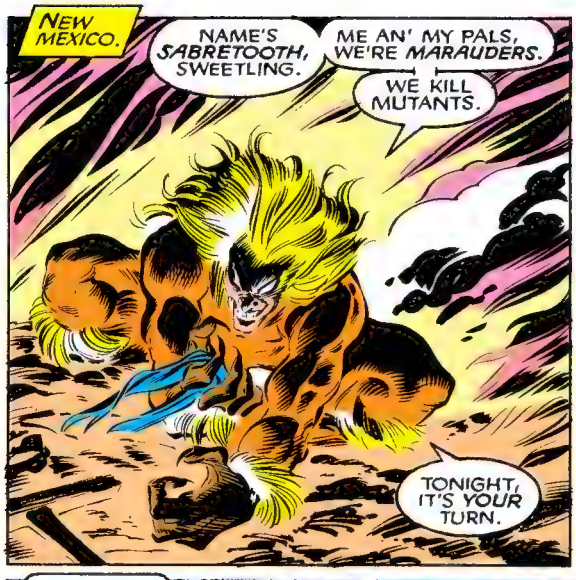

PROFESSOR X WAS ASSOCIATED WITH A LADY SCIENTIST IN SCOTLAND, A GOOD FRIEND TO THE X-MEN.
I TRY HER NEXT.
AGAIN, NO LUCK.


I GET SOME HARDCASE NAMED CALLISTO.
TEAM'S IN NEW YORK. CONTACT 'EM THROUGH MAGNETO.
HOW ABOUT MY BROTHER, SCOTT?

DO YOU KNOW WHERE I CAN REACH CYCLOPS?
TRY THE YELLOW PAGES.
KLIK!

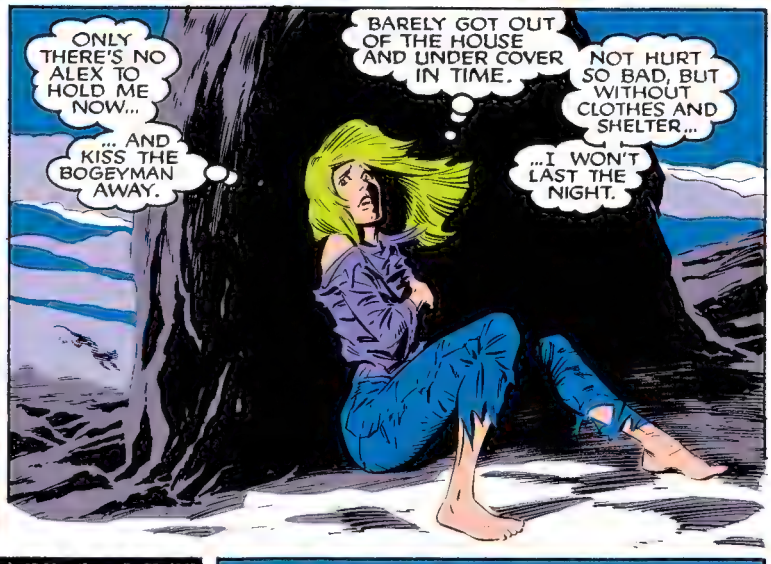

WHAT THE HECK IS THAT ALL ABOUT?! A SIMPLE, CIVIL QUESTION-- YET SHE DARN NEAR BITES MY HEAD OFF.
X-FACTOR
MUTANT INVESTIGATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS
SCOTT WAS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE X-MEN. IF ANYONE BESIDES LORNA COULD SET ME STRAIGHT...


... I FIGURED IT'D BE HIM.
WISH I HADN'T BEEN SUCH A BUTTHEAD, WHY'D I LEAVE LORNA BEHIND? SUMMERS STUBBORNESS. SUMMERS STUPIDITY.
I PHONE HOME, BUT THE CALL DOESN'T GO THROUGH. LINE TROUBLE, OPERATOR SAYS. FACT OF LIFE ON THE DESERT.
I'M COLD.
I MISS HER.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

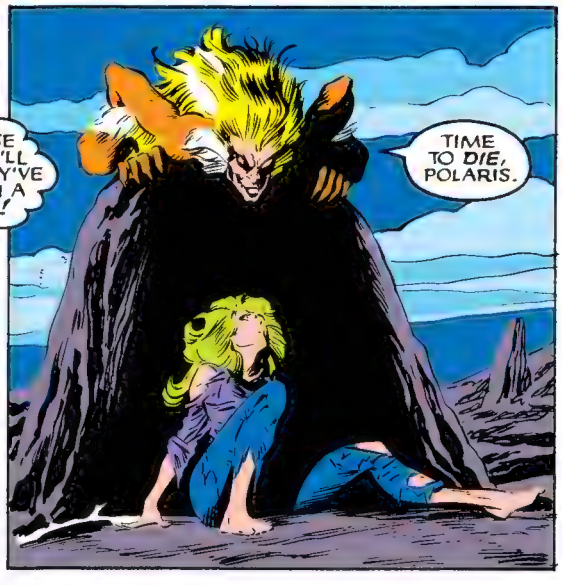

NEW MEXICO.
NAME'S SABRETOOTH, SWEETLING.
ME AN' MY PALS, WE'RE MARAUDERS.
WE KILL MUTANTS.
TONIGHT, IT'S YOUR TURN.

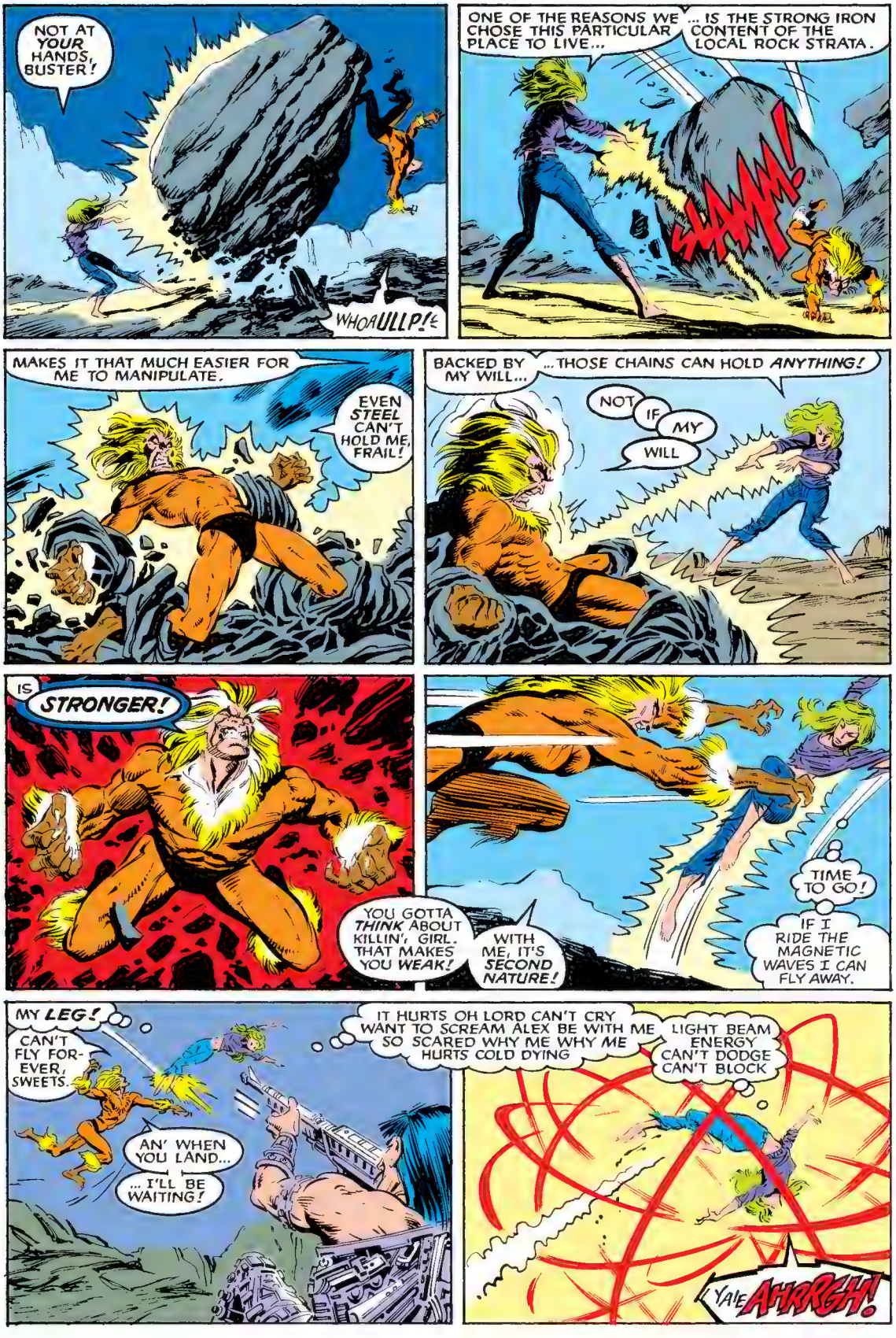
I GOT YOUR SCENT, MISSY.
NEXT, I'LL HAVE YOUR HEART!

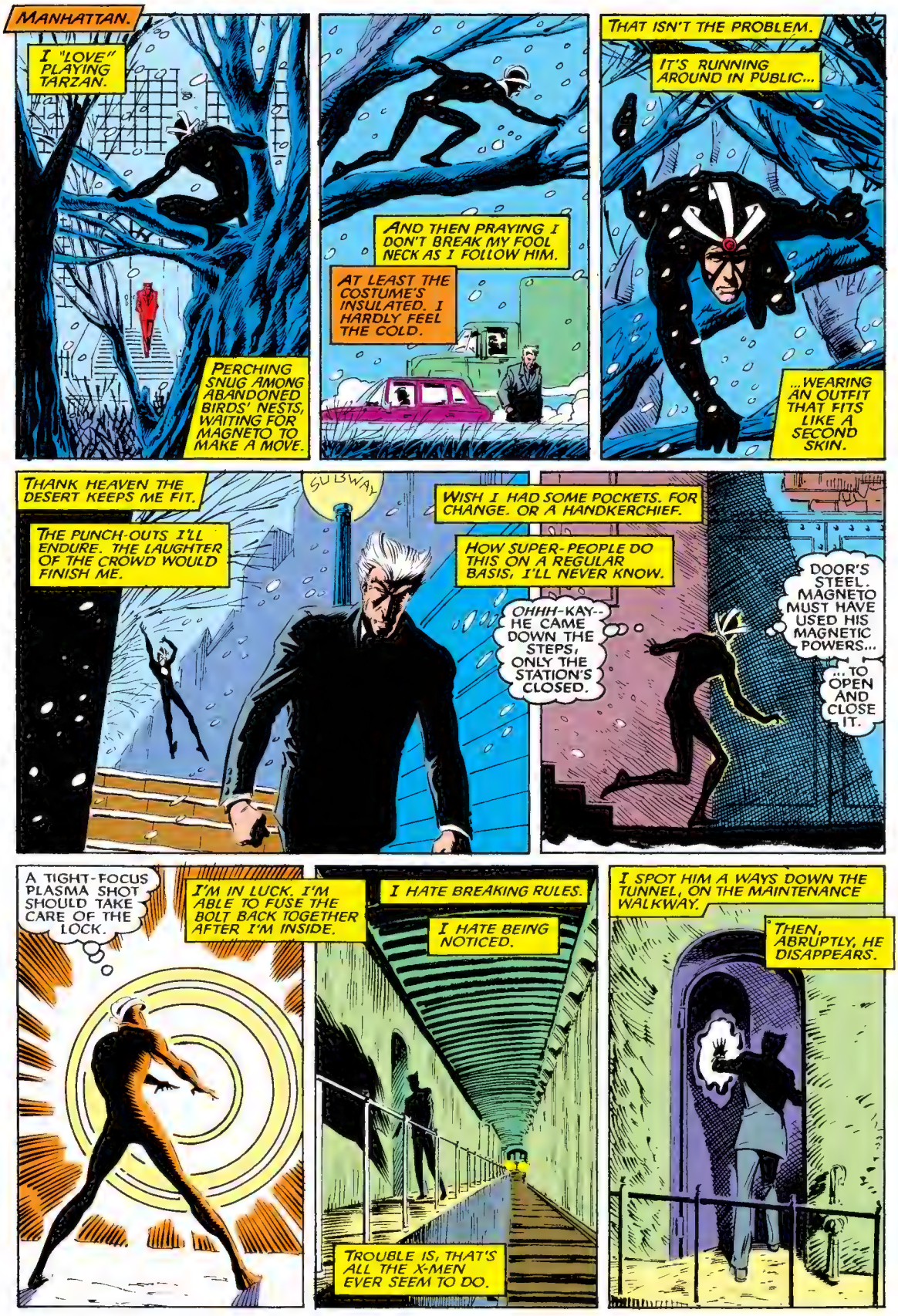
"I HEARD WOLVERINE HOWL LIKE THIS ONCE.
"I HAD NIGHTMARES FOR A WEEK.

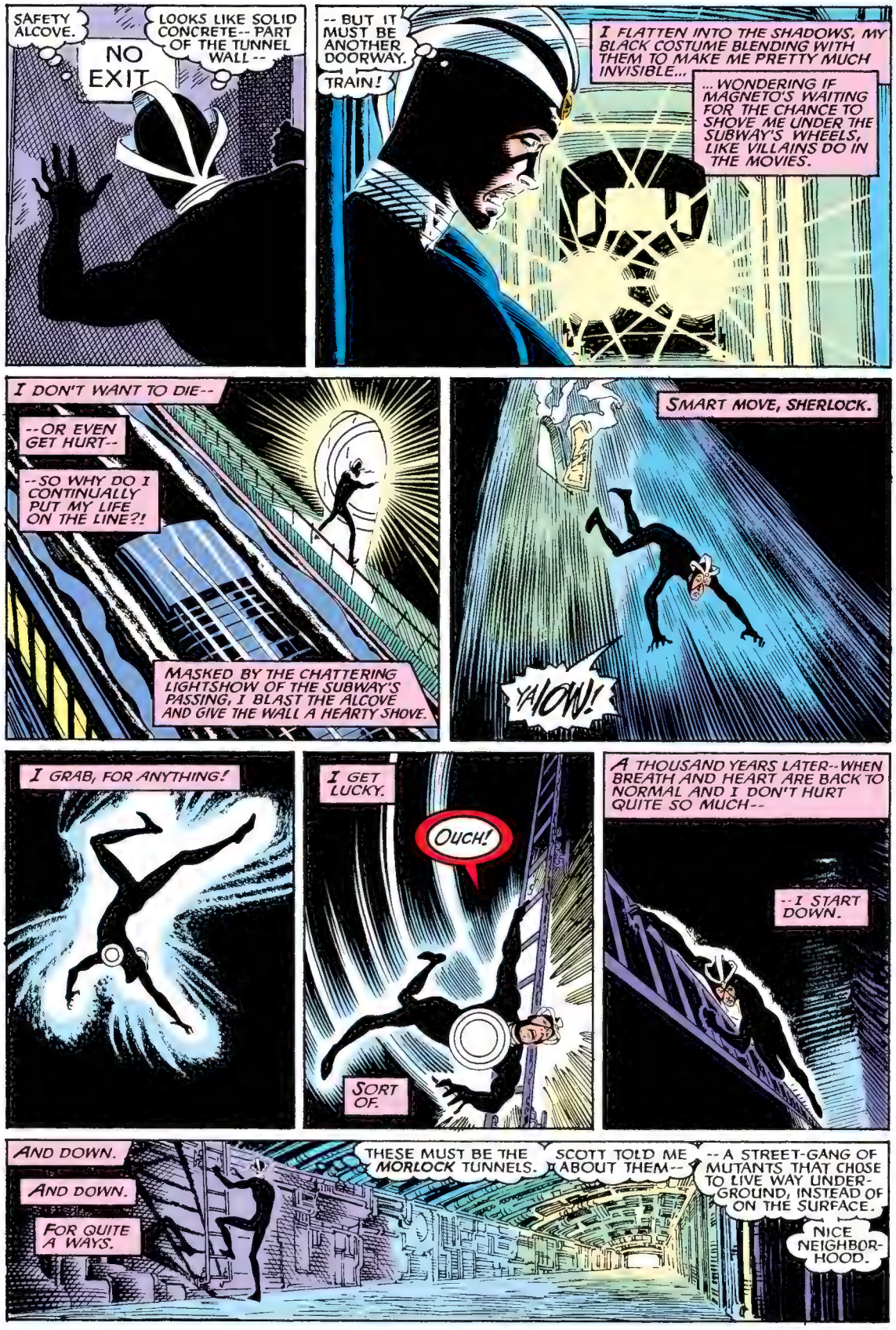

ONLY THERE'S NO ALEX TO HOLD ME NOW...
... AND KISS THE BOGEYMAN AWAY.
BARELY GOT OUT OF THE HOUSE AND UNDER COVER IN TIME.
NOT HURT SO BAD, BUT WITHOUT CLOTHES AND SHELTER...
...I WON'T LAST THE NIGHT.

OPTIMIST-- TO THINK I'LL LIVE THAT LONG.
SABRETOOTH SAID "PALS"-- PLURAL, THAT MEANS A TEAM, BUT HOW MANY? WHERE?? WHAT POWERS???
I MAY NOT HAVE A PRAYER, BUT BEFORE I'M DONE...
... THESE CREEPS'LL KNOW THEY'VE BEEN IN A FIGHT!

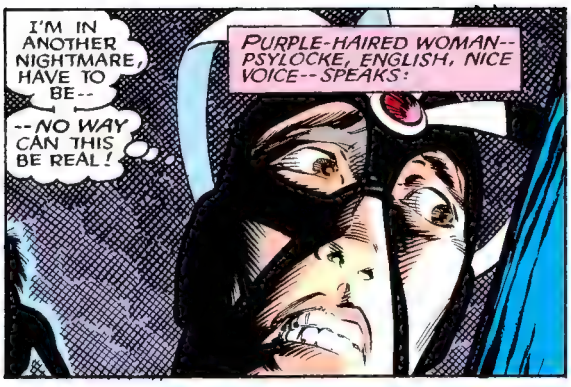

TIME TO DIE, POLARIS.


NOT AT YOUR HANDS, BUSTER!
WHOAULLP!
ONE OF THE REASONS WE CHOSE THIS PARTICULAR PLACE TO LIVE...
... IS THE STRONG IRON CONTENT OF THE LOCAL ROCK STRATA.
SLAMM!
MAKES IT THAT MUCH EASIER FOR ME TO MANIPULATE.
EVEN STEEL CAN'T HOLD ME, FRAIL!
BACKED BY MY WILL...
...THOSE CHAINS CAN HOLD ANYTHING!
NOT
IF
MY
WILL
IS STRONGER!
YOU GOTTA THINK ABOUT KILLIN', GIRL. THAT MAKES YOU WEAK!
WITH ME, IT'S SECOND NATURE!
TIME TO GO!
IF I RIDE THE MAGNETIC WAVES I CAN FLY AWAY.
MY LEG!
CAN'T FLY FOR-EVER, SWEETS.
AN' WHEN YOU LAND...
... I'LL BE WAITING!
IT HURTS OH LORD CAN'T CRY WANT TO SCREAM ALEX BE WITH ME SO SCARED WHY ME WHY ME HURTS COLD DYING
LIGHT BEAM ENERGY CAN'T DODGE CAN'T BLOCK
YA'E AHRRGH!

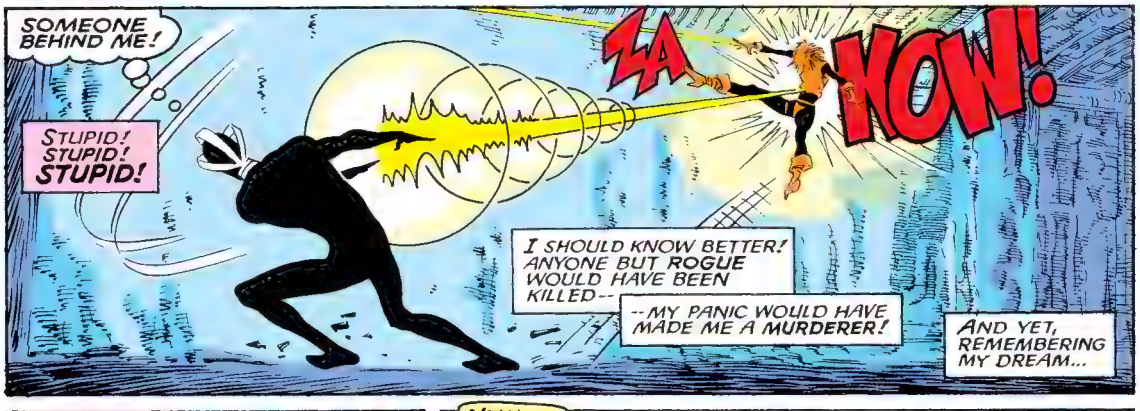

MANHATTAN.
I "LOVE" PLAYING TARZAN.
PERCHING SNUG AMONG ABANDONED BIRDS' NESTS, WAITING FOR MAGNETO TO MAKE A MOVE.
AND THEN PRAYING I DON'T BREAK MY FOOL NECK AS I FOLLOW HIM.
AT LEAST THE COSTUME'S INSULATED. I HARDLY FEEL THE COLD.
THAT ISN'T THE PROBLEM.
IT'S RUNNING AROUND IN PUBLIC...
...WEARING AN OUTFIT THAT FITS LIKE A SECOND SKIN.
THANK HEAVEN THE DESERT KEEPS ME FIT.
THE PUNCH-OUTS I'LL ENDURE. THE LAUGHTER OF THE CROWD WOULD FINISH ME.
SUBWAY
WISH I HAD SOME POCKETS. FOR CHANGE. OR A HANDKERCHIEF.
HOW SUPER-PEOPLE DO THIS ON A REGULAR BASIS, I'LL NEVER KNOW.
OHHH-KAY-- HE CAME DOWN THE STEPS, ONLY THE STATION'S CLOSED.
DOOR'S STEEL. MAGNETO MUST HAVE USED HIS MAGNETIC POWERS...
...TO OPEN AND CLOSE IT.
A TIGHT-FOCUS PLASMA SHOT SHOULD TAKE CARE OF THE LOCK.
I'M IN LUCK. I'M ABLE TO FUSE THE BOLT BACK TOGETHER AFTER I'M INSIDE.
I HATE BREAKING RULES.
I HATE BEING NOTICED.
TROUBLE IS, THAT'S ALL THE X-MEN EVER SEEM TO DO.
I SPOT HIM A WAYS DOWN THE TUNNEL, ON THE MAINTENANCE WALKWAY.
THEN, ABRUPTLY, HE DISAPPEARS.

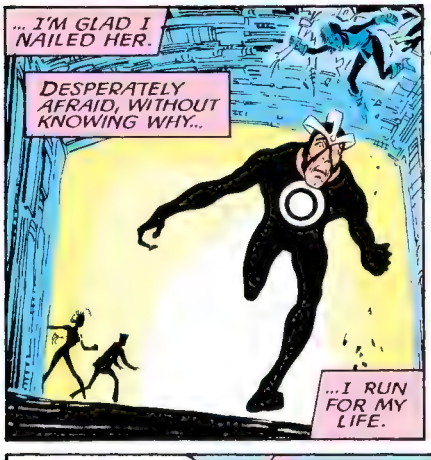

SAFETY ALCOVE.
LOOKS LIKE SOLID CONCRETE-- PART OF THE TUNNEL WALL--
NO EXIT
-- BUT IT MUST BE ANOTHER DOORWAY.
TRAIN!
I FLATTEN INTO THE SHADOWS, MY BLACK COSTUME BLENDING WITH THEM TO MAKE ME PRETTY MUCH INVISIBLE...
...WONDERING IF MAGNETO'S WAITING FOR THE CHANCE TO SHOVE ME UNDER THE SUBWAY'S WHEELS, LIKE VILLAINS DO IN THE MOVIES.
I DON'T WANT TO DIE--
--OR EVEN GET HURT--
--SO WHY DO I CONTINUALLY PUT MY LIFE ON THE LINE?!
MASKED BY THE CHATTERING LIGHTSHOW OF THE SUBWAY'S PASSING, I BLAST THE ALCOVE AND GIVE THE WALL A HEARTY SHOVE.
SMART MOVE, SHERLOCK.
YAIOW!
I GRAB, FOR ANYTHING!
I GET LUCKY.
OUCH!
SORT OF.
A THOUSAND YEARS LATER--WHEN BREATH AND HEART ARE BACK TO NORMAL AND I DON'T HURT QUITE SO MUCH--
--I START DOWN.
AND DOWN.
AND DOWN.
FOR QUITE A WAYS.
THESE MUST BE THE MORLOCK TUNNELS.
SCOTT TOLD ME ABOUT THEM--
--A STREET-GANG OF MUTANTS THAT CHOSE TO LIVE WAY UNDER-GROUND, INSTEAD OF ON THE SURFACE.
NICE NEIGHBOR-HOOD.

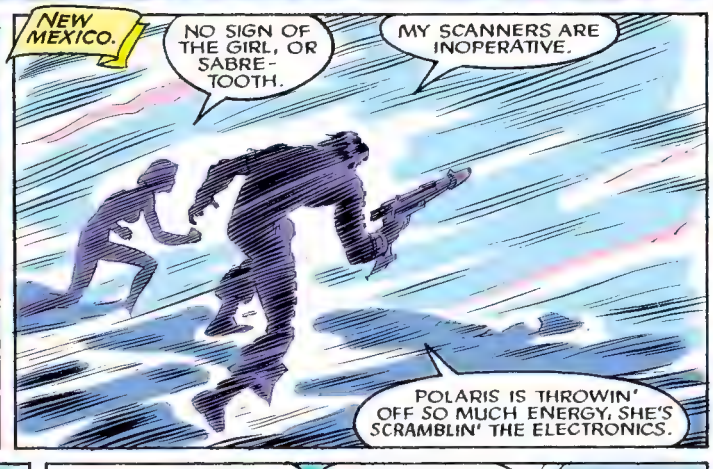
WHAT'S MAGNETO WANT WITH THEM-- UNLESS HE'S OUT TO FORM ANOTHER BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS?!
I'LL HEAD FOR THAT LIGHT--
-- PROBABLY WHERE I'LL FIND THE PEOPLE.
Hmnh-- BURN MARKS.
AS IF THESE TUNNELS HAD BEEN SCOURED BY A WHITE-HOT FLAME.
PRETTY RECENT, TOO.
ANYONE CAUGHT IN THAT CONFLAGRATION...
...WOULDN'T HAVE STOOD A PRAYER.
WHAT THE DEVIL HAPPENED?!
I THOUGHT THE MORLOCKS WERE A PRETTY BIG OUTFIT...
...WHERE'S EVERYONE GONE?!
WAIT A MINUTE-- I REMEMBER NOW-- THEIR BOSS WAS A WOMAN NAMED CALLISTO!
BUT-- WHY'S SHE ON MUIR ISLE--
--WHY ARE THE X-MEN HERE?!?
THE WHOLE CREW FROM MY NIGHTMARE-- EXCEPT WOLVERINE AND ROGUE-- WITH DAZZLER'S GLOWING BODY PROVIDING THE LIGHT.
THANKS TO THE MARAUDERS...
... THE MORLOCKS HAVE BEEN VIRTUALLY WIPED OUT...
... AND THE X-MEN'S NUMBERS CUT IN HALF, WITH NO GUARANTEE THAT COLOSSUS, NIGHTCRAWLER OR SHADOW-CAT WILL EVER RECOVER, MUCH LESS RETURN TO THE TEAM.
WHAT?!?
THE MARAUDERS EVIDENTLY CONSIDER US THEIR PARAMOUNT FOE.
SO LONG, THEN, AS THE X-MEN EXIST, THEY WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO DESTROY US-- EITHER BY ATTACKING DIRECTLY, OR THROUGH THOSE WE CARE FOR.
WE CANNOT PROTECT EVERY-ONE WE KNOW-- BUT HOW CAN WE FIGHT, AWARE THAT BY DOING SO, INNOCENTS WILL SUFFER? YET, NOT RESISTING MEANS CEDING VICTORY TO THE MARAUDERS-- WHICH IS EQUALLY UNACCEPTABLE.
THE SOLUTION TO OUR DILEMMA IS TO FIND ANOTHER WAY-- WHICH ALLOWS US TO REGAIN THE INITIATIVE.
AND THAT, I THINK, IS TO MAKE THE KILLERS BELIEVE THEY HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THEIR OBJECTIVE.
MY FRIENDS--THE X-MEN MUST DIE!


I'M IN ANOTHER NIGHTMARE, HAVE TO BE--
--NO WAY CAN THIS BE REAL!
PURPLE-HAIRED WOMAN--PSYLOCKE, ENGLISH, NICE VOICE--SPEAKS:

BUT STORM, HOW DO WE FOOL THOSE WHO WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE LOOKING FOR ANY SUCH DECEPTION?
SMART, TOO. I WAS WONDERING THE SAME...
Huh?!!

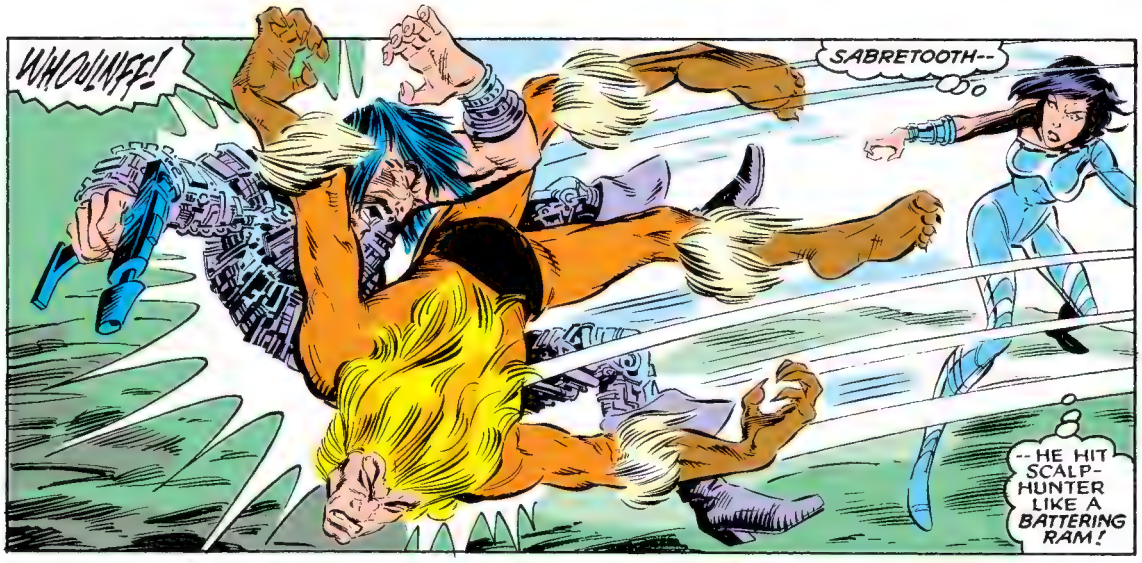

SOMEONE BEHIND ME!
STUPID! STUPID! STUPID!
ZA
KOW!
I SHOULD KNOW BETTER! ANYONE BUT ROGUE WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED--
--MY PANIC WOULD HAVE MADE ME A MURDERER!
AND YET, REMEMBERING MY DREAM...


... I'M GLAD I NAILED HER.
DESPERATELY AFRAID, WITHOUT KNOWING WHY...
...I RUN FOR MY LIFE.

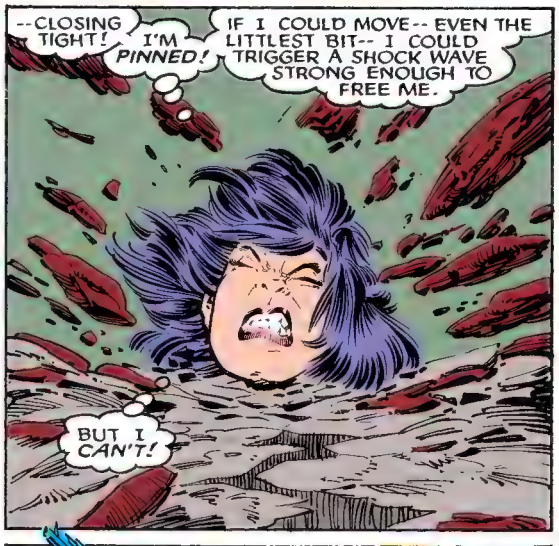

NEW MEXICO.
NO SIGN OF THE GIRL, OR SABRE-TOOTH.
MY SCANNERS ARE INOPERATIVE.
POLARIS IS THROWIN' OFF SO MUCH ENERGY, SHE'S SCRAMBLIN' THE ELECTRONICS.

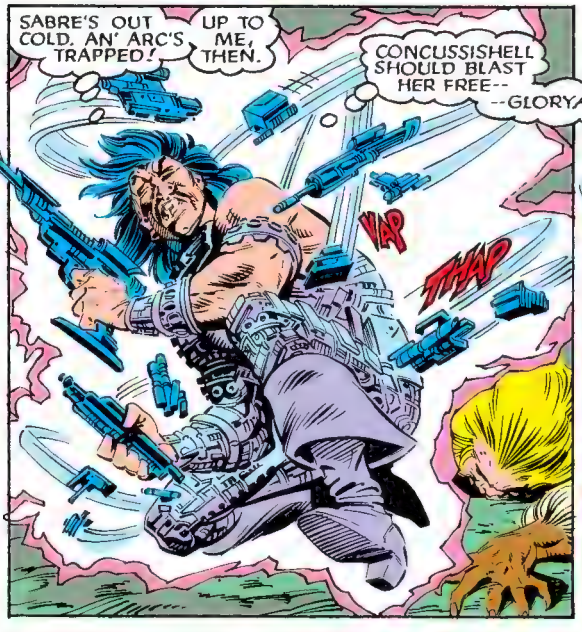
SHE'S BETTER'N WE FIGURED.
YOU SAYING WE CAN'T TAKE HER?
NOPE. JOB'LL TAKE A LITTLE LONGER, IS ALL.

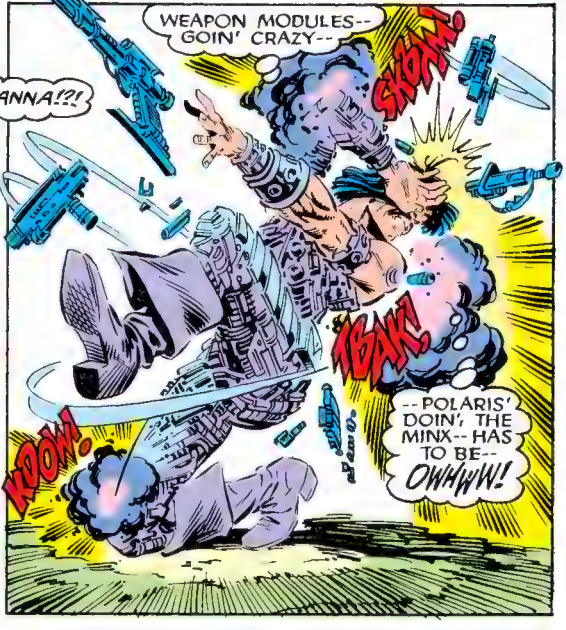
SABRETOOTH SLASHED HER BEFORE MY BOLT KNOCKED HER DOWN.
BEIN' HURT'LL MAKE HER MORE DANGEROUS...
... BUT ALSO MORE VULNERAB
HUNH?!?

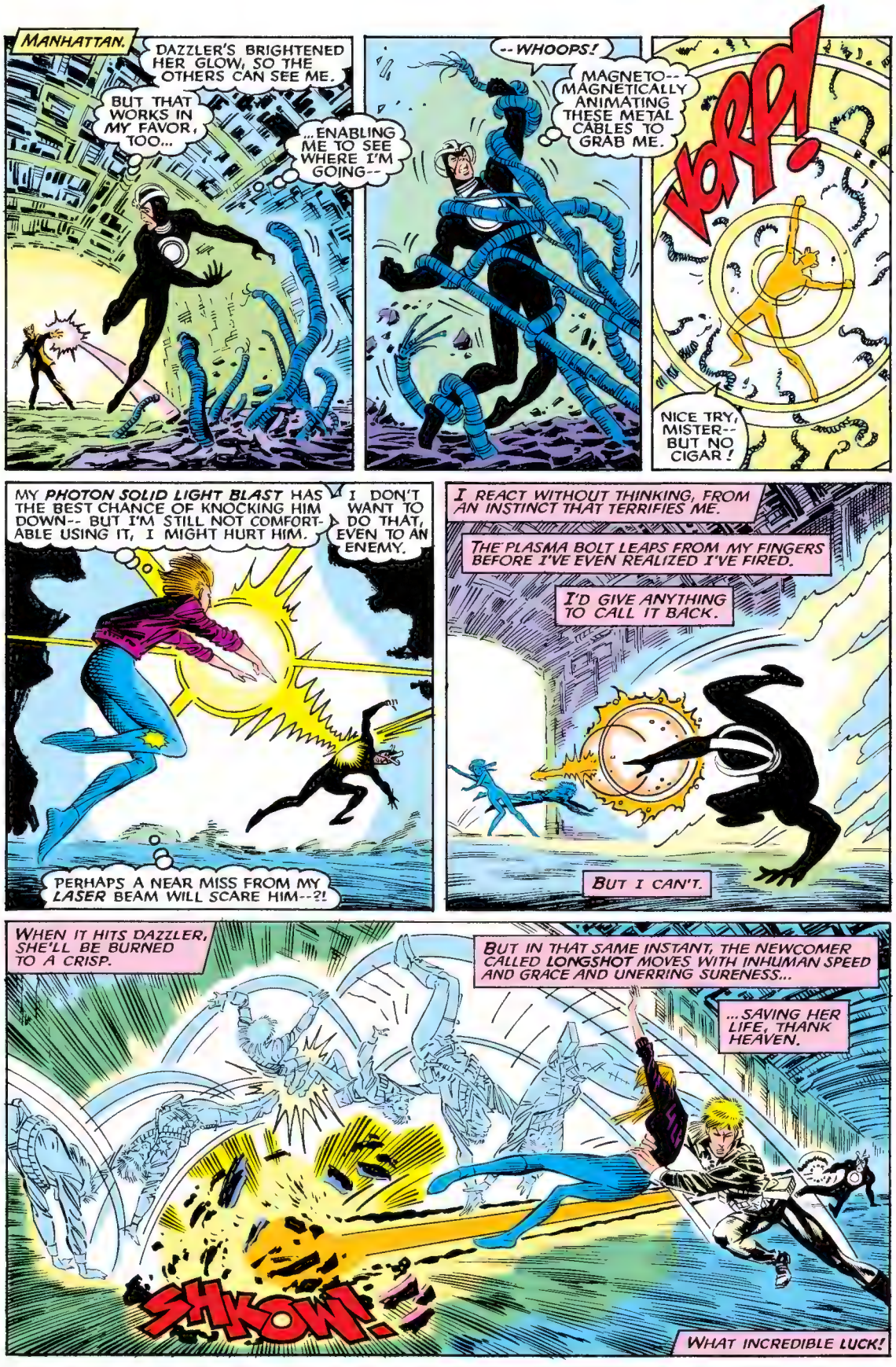

WHOULAFF!
SABRETOOTH--
--HE HIT SCALP-HUNTER LIKE A BATTERING RAM!

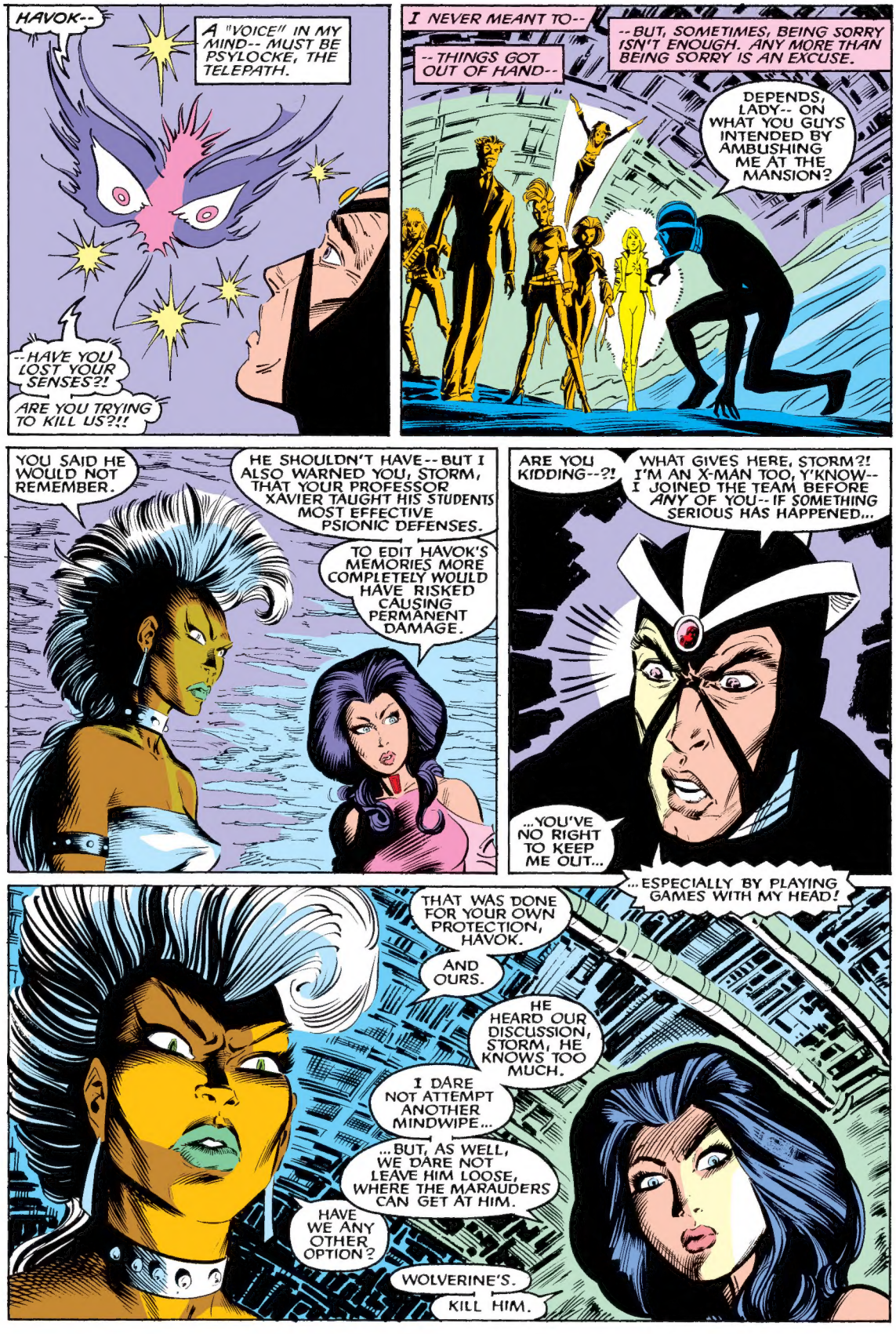
THE GROUND--
--FISSURE OPENING BENEATH ME--

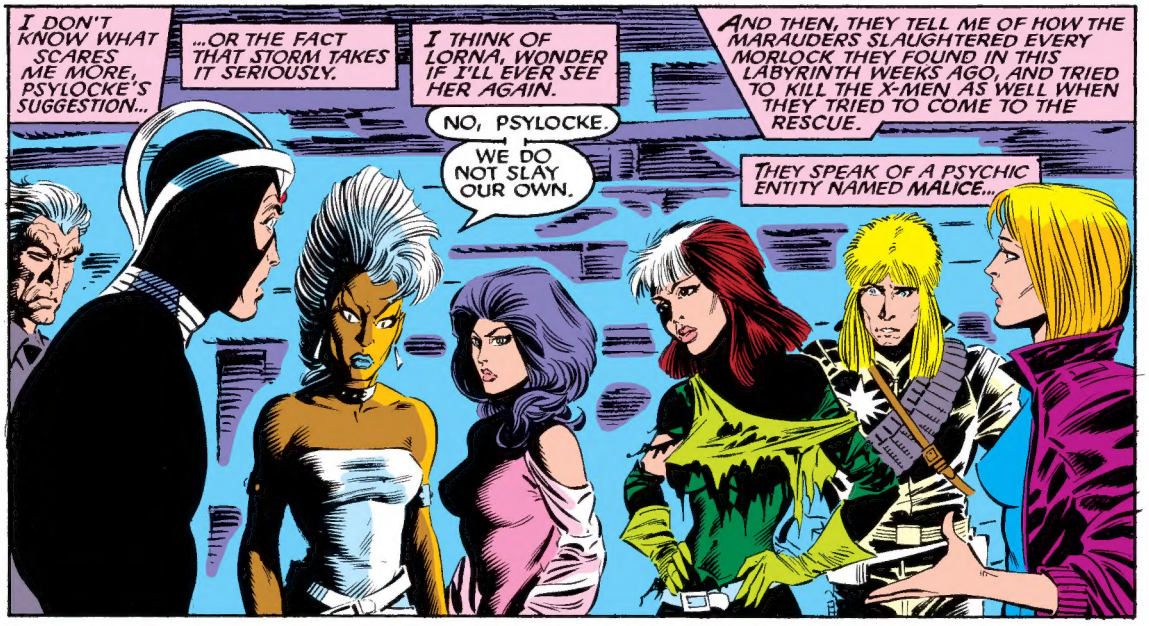

--CLOSING TIGHT!
I'M PINNED!
IF I COULD MOVE-- EVEN THE LITTLEST BIT-- I COULD TRIGGER A SHOCK WAVE STRONG ENOUGH TO FREE ME.
BUT I CAN'T!


SABRE'S OUT COLD. AN' ARC'S TRAPPED!
UP TO ME, THEN.
CONCUSSISHELL SHOULD BLAST HER FREE--
--GLORYANNA!?!
YAP
THAP

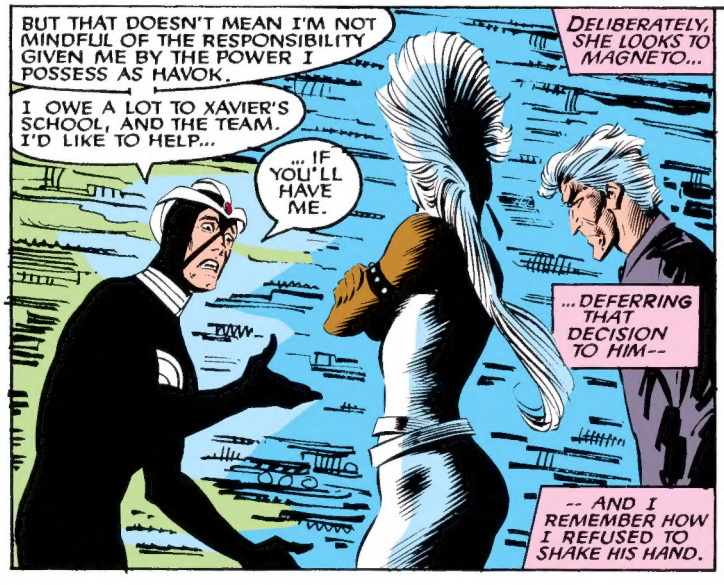

WEAPON MODULES-- GOIN' CRAZY--
SKRAM!
TEAK!
KOOW!
--POLARIS' DOIN', THE MINX-- HAS TO BE--
OWHWW!


MANHATTAN.
DAZZLER'S BRIGHTENED HER GLOW, SO THE OTHERS CAN SEE ME.
BUT THAT WORKS IN MY FAVOR, TOO...
...ENABLING ME TO SEE WHERE I'M GOING--
--WHOOPS!
MAGNETO--MAGNETICALLY ANIMATING THESE METAL CABLES TO GRAB ME.
YORP!
NICE TRY, MISTER--BUT NO CIGAR!
MY PHOTON SOLID LIGHT BLAST HAS THE BEST CHANCE OF KNOCKING HIM DOWN-- BUT I'M STILL NOT COMFORTABLE USING IT, I MIGHT HURT HIM.
I DON'T WANT TO DO THAT, EVEN TO AN ENEMY.
PERHAPS A NEAR MISS FROM MY LASER BEAM WILL SCARE HIM--?!
I REACT WITHOUT THINKING, FROM AN INSTINCT THAT TERRIFIES ME.
THE PLASMA BOLT LEAPS FROM MY FINGERS BEFORE I'VE EVEN REALIZED I'VE FIRED.
I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO CALL IT BACK.
BUT I CAN'T.
WHEN IT HITS DAZZLER, SHE'LL BE BURNED TO A CRISP.
BUT IN THAT SAME INSTANT, THE NEWCOMER CALLED LONGSHOT MOVES WITH INHUMAN SPEED AND GRACE AND UNERRING SURENESS...
...SAVING HER LIFE, THANK HEAVEN.
SHKOW!
WHAT INCREDIBLE LUCK!

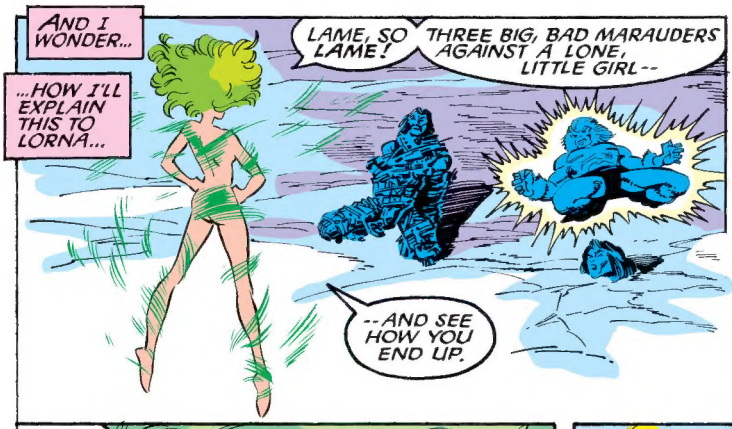

HAVOK--
A "VOICE" IN MY MIND-- MUST BE PSYLOCKE, THE TELEPATH.
--HAVE YOU LOST YOUR SENSES?!
ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL US?!!
I NEVER MEANT TO--
--THINGS GOT OUT OF HAND--
--BUT, SOMETIMES, BEING SORRY ISN'T ENOUGH. ANY MORE THAN BEING SORRY IS AN EXCUSE.
DEPENDS, LADY-- ON WHAT YOU GUYS INTENDED BY AMBUSHING ME AT THE MANSION?
YOU SAID HE WOULD NOT REMEMBER.
HE SHOULDN'T HAVE--BUT I ALSO WARNED YOU, STORM, THAT YOUR PROFESSOR XAVIER TAUGHT HIS STUDENTS MOST EFFECTIVE PSIONIC DEFENSES.
TO EDIT HAVOK'S MEMORIES MORE COMPLETELY WOULD HAVE RISKED CAUSING PERMANENT DAMAGE.
ARE YOU KIDDING--?!
WHAT GIVES HERE, STORM?! I'M AN X-MAN TOO, Y'KNOW-- I JOINED THE TEAM BEFORE ANY OF YOU-- IF SOMETHING SERIOUS HAS HAPPENED...
...YOU'VE NO RIGHT TO KEEP ME OUT...
...ESPECIALLY BY PLAYING GAMES WITH MY HEAD!
THAT WAS DONE FOR YOUR OWN PROTECTION, HAVOK.
AND OURS.
HE HEARD OUR DISCUSSION, STORM, HE KNOWS TOO MUCH.
I DARE NOT ATTEMPT ANOTHER MINDWIPE...
...BUT, AS WELL, WE DARE NOT LEAVE HIM LOOSE, WHERE THE MARAUDERS CAN GET AT HIM.
HAVE WE ANY OTHER OPTION?
WOLVERINE'S.
KILL HIM.

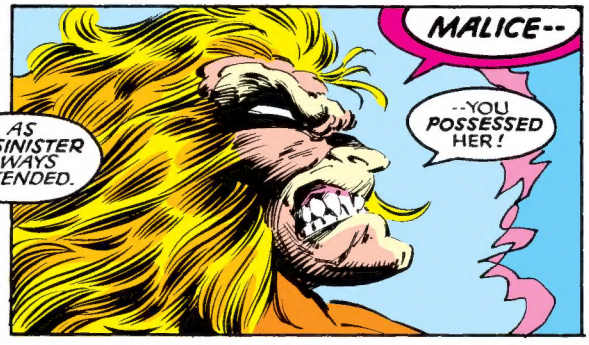

I DON'T KNOW WHAT SCARES ME MORE, PSYLOCKE'S SUGGESTION...
...OR THE FACT THAT STORM TAKES IT SERIOUSLY.
I THINK OF LORNA, WONDER IF I'LL EVER SEE HER AGAIN.
AND THEN, THEY TELL ME OF HOW THE MARAUDERS SLAUGHTERED EVERY MORLOCK THEY FOUND IN THIS LABYRINTH WEEKS AGO, AND TRIED TO KILL THE X-MEN AS WELL WHEN THEY TRIED TO COME TO THE RESCUE.
NO, PSYLOCKE.
WE DO NOT SLAY OUR OWN.
THEY SPEAK OF A PSYCHIC ENTITY NAMED MALICE...

...WHO GETS INSIDE YOUR SKULL AND TWISTS THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, ACTIONS AND DESIRES INTO THE NASTIEST OF DIRECTIONS.
AND AS I LISTEN, I REALIZE THAT MY DAYS OF BYSTANDING ON THE SIDELINES ARE OVER.
THEY SPEAK OF DEATH AND SACRIFICE.
LOOK, STORM-- THE X-MEN WAS ALWAYS THE CENTER OF MY BROTHER'S LIFE, MORE THAN IT EVER WAS OF MINE.


BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M NOT MINDFUL OF THE RESPONSIBILITY GIVEN ME BY THE POWER I POSSESS AS HAVOK.
I OWE A LOT TO XAVIER'S SCHOOL, AND THE TEAM. I'D LIKE TO HELP...
... IF YOU'LL HAVE ME.
DELIBERATELY, SHE LOOKS TO MAGNETO...
...DEFERRING THAT DECISION TO HIM--
-- AND I REMEMBER HOW I REFUSED TO SHAKE HIS HAND.

A WAR HAS BEGUN, ALEX SUMMERS--OF MUTANT VERSUS MUTANT. HERE, WAS FOUGHT THE FIRST BATTLE. HERE, FELL THE FIRST CASUALTIES.
THEY WILL NOT BE THE LAST.
AND HE TAKES MY HAND...





YOU BETCHA I DID, FURFACE--

--AT ALBUQUERQUE AIRPORT, THE MOMENT SHE KISSED HER LOVERDOLL GOOD-BYE.

THIS FIGHT WAS A TEST, TO MAKE SURE SHE WAS UP TO THE JOB-- AND THAT I COULD HANDLE HER UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

SWEETHEART HAS A LOVELY PSYCHE-- TASTIEST I'VE ENCOUNTERED SINCE DAZZLER-- I'LL ENJOY MY STAY. IN FACT, I MAY NEVER LEAVE.

WITH MY PROMPTING-- AND UNDER Mr. SINISTER'S TUTELAGE--LORNA DANE WILL ACHIEVE HER TRUE DESTINY AS THE MISTRESS OF MAGNETISM, MONARCH OF THE MARAUDERS:

POLARIS!

NEXT

STORM & FORGE--

UNFINISHED BUSINESS!

MINUTEMEN
Bluntman